

Turkey, Iraq prepare to reopen pipeline

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey and Iraq are preparing to reopen twin oil pipelines that were used for Iraqi oil exports before the United Nations embargo last year, a Turkish official said Tuesday. Oktay Vural, chairman of the state-run Turkish pipeline concern Boras, stressed the opening of the 986-kilometre network would be subject to the lifting of the U.N. embargo clamped on Iraq after its takeover of Kuwait last August. "We are getting the pipelines technically ready for a possible decision by the government for the resumption of the oil flow. That decision will continue to be subject to the lifting of the embargo," Mr. Vural said. The economic embargo against Iraq, especially its ability to export oil, is expected to be lifted in the near future. Sanctions would be lifted by the U.N. Security Council on the recommendation of its Sanctions Committee. Iraq's agreement to permit a U.N. police force to help protect Kurds in northern Iraq is considered a major factor in the decision to allow Iraq to begin pumping and exporting oil again. The Turkish announcement followed talks here last week with an Iraqi delegation headed by Ghazi Sabir Ali, the president of Iraq's North oil company in charge of the production and export of oil in Kurdish-dominated northern Iraq. The talks had been "purely technical," Mr. Vural said.



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Iraqi deputies assail trade minister

BAGHDAD (R) — Three members of Iraq's National Assembly have demanded the questioning of the trade minister on charges of negligence. The government newspaper Al Junhouriyyah said the deputies called on the assembly to quiz Mohammad Mehdi Saleh, who kept his post in a cabinet reshuffle in March. "There is deliberate negligence on the part of the ministry that justifies the questioning of the minister in a special session," it quoted Mubajel Al Sheikh Isa, Raja'a Al Shawi and Habib Mohan as saying in a letter to the assembly. The paper did not say when the letter was sent to the 250-member assembly.

Iran to lift travel bans

NICOSIA (R) — Bans on foreign travel for thousands of Iranians will be lifted under a plan drawn up by Iran's central bank to settle debts they owe it, Tehran Radio quoted a bank official as saying. A travel ban was imposed on thousands of people accused of transferring large amounts of money abroad in the final months of the Shah's rule which ended with the 1979 Islamic revolution in 1979. The bank official said 13,000 people who owed currency could act to settle with the bank over a four-month period from Wednesday.

Qaboos in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Sultan Qaboos Ben Said of Oman arrived in Cairo from Saudi Arabia Tuesday at the start of a three-day state visit to Egypt, officials said. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported that in remarks made on his departure for Cairo, the Sultan expressed satisfaction over his talks with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd. The Omani News Agency quoted Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef Ben Alawi as saying the Sultan agreed on the importance of new methods to ensure security in the region in the wake of the Gulf war.

Mubarak sacks veteran oil minister

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has sacked his veteran oil minister, Abdul Hadi Kandeel, replacing him with a senior oil industry executive. Egypt's national Middle East News Agency (MENA) said the new oil minister, Hamdi Ali Al Banbi, was appointed late on Monday night, only hours after a major cabinet reshuffle in which Mr. Mubarak replaced his foreign and defence ministers.

UNESCO postpones vote on Palestine

PARIS (R) — The executive board of UNESCO on Tuesday postponed for a second time a controversial decision on admitting Palestine as a full member of the U.N. cultural body. UNESCO sources said the postponement was approved without dissent after Yemen, one of the countries proposing Palestinian membership, said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was in favour of putting off the decision. Omar Massalha, PLO observer at UNESCO, said the decision was not related to international disapproval of the PLO's support of Iraq in the Gulf war.

Rafsanjani tells Iran's pilgrims to behave

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian haj pilgrims returning to Saudi Arabia next month for the first time since bloody riots in Mecca in 1987, were told to behave themselves by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. Speaking at the tomb of the late supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Tehran Radio quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying on Tuesday: "The important task is to spread the facts of Islam and we don't need to contaminate our state with acts which provide pretexts for enemies of Islam and create obstacles for us."

Gandhi assassinated

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and at least 12 other people were killed Tuesday when a powerful bomb exploded at an election rally in southern India.

Mr. Gandhi had just gotten out of his car in the town of Sriperumbudur, 40 kilometres southwest of Madras, when the blast occurred, Indian news agencies said.

A government spokesman confirmed the reports.

Mr. Gandhi was killed in the southern state of Tamil Nadu seven years after becoming premier when his mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was assassinated by Sikh bodyguards.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said much of Mr. Gandhi's head was blown off.

The press agency United News of India (UNI) said Mr. Gandhi was

receiving bouquets from his supporters when the bomb went off at 10:20 p.m. (1650 GMT).

Mr. Gandhi had arrived at Madras airport about two hours earlier to campaign for his Congress Party in this week's national elections.

According to PTI, he was cheerful and confident about his party's chances in the elections. Most opinion polls have said the Congress was likely to win and Mr. Gandhi was poised to make a comeback.

The former prime minister was probably blown up by a remote-controlled bomb, according to initial reports by police in Madras.

Police suspected Sri Lankan Tamil militants could have been among those who carried out the attack, said PTI.

Mr. Gandhi was blown up when he arrived at an election meeting about an hour behind schedule.

He was receiving bouquets of flowers from supporters when an explosion ripped apart his car. Part of his face was blown off and his body was



Rajiv Gandhi

badly mutilated, reporters at the scene said.

PTI said the body of the 46-year-

old Gandhi was taken to the general hospital in Madras.

About 200 people have been killed since campaigning began six weeks ago for India's 10th national elections since independence from Britain in 1947.

Government chief spokesman Ramamohan Rao confirmed Mr. Gandhi's death, but had no further details of the attack on the Congress Party leader.

His body was expected to be flown to Delhi after a period of lying in state.

His Italian-born wife Sonia was not with him at the Congress Party meeting where he died, PTI said.

Tamil Nadu was to have voted next Sunday. The week-long elections started Monday.

Mr. Gandhi, the grandson of India's first post-independence Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, took over as leader of the Congress Party from his mother Indira, shot by her bodyguards in 1984. Mr. Gandhi's younger brother Sanjay died in a stunt plane

crash in 1980.

PTI said at least a dozen other people were feared killed in the blast. The agency said its own reporter was at the scene.

Mr. Gandhi, who was prime minister from 1984 until 1989, was lying in a pool of blood along with several unidentified bodies, reporters at the scene said.

PTI said security men cordoned off the area and were trying to get the injured to hospital.

UNI news agency said Mr. Gandhi was identified by a senior police officer, who turned the mutilated body over.

His clothes were torn and he was lying face down in his own blood.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. But most of the violence in the southern state has been attributed to Tamil militants from neighbouring Sri Lanka, who have sought refuge in Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Gandhi, as prime minister,

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24 face death in Kuwaiti trials

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies) — Twenty-four people went before a martial law court Tuesday that could order them hanged for their work on an Iraqi-run newspaper that criticised Kuwait's royal family during the occupation.

After several hours of testimony, the judges granted defence motions to recess until June 1 so attorneys can study the evidence against their clients.

The recess came a day after the treatment of other defendants prompted expressions of concern in the West.

The court tried the first of an estimated 300 alleged collaborators on Sunday, and meted out stiff sentences in quick succession for six defendants without allowing witnesses to be called or presenting evidence publicly.

The most severe sentence handed out Sunday was 15 years in prison, given to a man whose only stated offence was wearing a Saddam Hussein T-shirt, and many defence attorneys were appointed on the spot.

On Tuesday, Ministry of Justice spokesman Ahmad Al Sarawi said the man "had worked for Iraqi intelligence and the T-shirt was just part of the minor evidence against him."

The swift, summary treatment raised concerns about whether the defendants were getting fair trials. Defence attorneys complained Sunday that confessions were extracted from some of the accused through torture.

Western nations are watching the proceedings carefully in the light of widespread reports of reprisals by Kuwaitis — including torture and killings — against alleged collaborators after Iraqi forces left Kuwait in February.

In Washington Monday, President George Bush called on Kuwait to "extend a fair trial to everybody" accused of cooperating with the Iraqi forces.

White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said: "We do have concerns about the justice system in Kuwait."

The journalists tried Tuesday, most of them Palestinians who carry various passports, wrote for the Al Nida, the only newspaper allowed in Kuwait during Iraq's seven-month occupation. They had been forced to work on the paper out of fear, need for money or to avoid being sent to Baghdad.

Six women, their heads covered by black veils, were among the defendants, who shuffled into the packed, 100-seat courtroom as proceedings started at 9:30 a.m. Twelve of the male defendants were placed in a steel cage.

All 22 defendants present — two will be tried in absentia — pleaded not guilty in the small courtroom at the ultra-modern, eight-storey Palace of Justice.

The two at large are a Lebanese and a Jordanian. The other defendants are a Kuwaiti, 14 Jordanians, five Iraqis, a bedouin (a stateless resident of Kuwait) and a Palestinian with Egyptian-issued refugee travel documents.

Western diplomats and delegates from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the London-based

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'Public health catastrophe' if urgent action not taken in Iraq

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At least 170,000 Iraqi children under five years of age face certain death unless urgent food and medical supplies are rushed to the beleaguered country, an American student group has found after a nine-day mission.

The findings of the mission, undertaken by experts and students from Harvard University, say that the projected mortality rate represents a 100 per cent increase in Iraq compared with statistics from before the eruption of the Gulf crisis in August last year.

Even at that, says a copy of the Harvard report, the projections are "conservative." It says that in all probability, "the actual number of deaths of children under five will be much higher. While children under five were the focus

of the study, a large increase in deaths among the rest of the population is also likely."

The report, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, documents a "public health catastrophe" resulting from a "breakdown" of Iraq's medical system in addition to acute shortages of medicine, equipment, and staff. It concludes that "the state of medical care is desperate and — unless conditions substantially change — will continue to deteriorate in every region and at nearly every provider level."

The report cites the incapacitation of 18 of 20 power plants during the Gulf war, with several damaged beyond repair, as a principal cause of the deterioration in public health. It bases its findings on information collected during unsupervised visits to power plants in various areas in Iraq. The country's power-

generating capacity has been reduced to 20 per cent of its pre-war level, it says.

"There is a link in Iraq between electrical power and public health," states the report. "Without electricity, water cannot be purified, sewage cannot be treated, water-borne diseases flourish, and hospitals cannot treat curable illness."

The report also states that the immediate cause of death in most cases will be water-borne infectious diseases combined with severe malnutrition.

The study finds an extraordinary prevalence among children of acute malnutrition, including marasmus and kwashiorkor. The rise in infant and child malnutrition is primarily due to severe food shortages and a consequent ten-fold or more increase in the price of food.

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Mengistu flees Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — President Mengistu Haile Mariam, under pressure from rebels who seized much of the territory, resigned and fled Ethiopia on Tuesday, state radio announced.

The noon (0900 GMT) broadcast said Lieutenant-General Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, a former defence minister, had taken over this Horn of Africa nation.

The streets of the capital were quiet following the radio announcement.

Mr. Mengistu's destination was not announced. Sources said they believed Mr. Mengistu had arrived in Nairobi, capital of neighbouring Kenya, but it could not immediately be confirmed.

Sources also said Mr. Mengistu's final destination was Zimbababwe, where rebels say his family has been living for several months. His wife arrived there from Addis Ababa Tuesday evening.

"Mengistu has resigned and left the country this morning at the request of various bodies," the radio said, quoting the council of state.

The radio did not identify those bodies. But opposition groups have repeatedly called for Mr. Mengistu's resignation in recent months. The United States and most European countries had also quietly urged his departure.

Mr. Mengistu, who ruled Ethiopia since 1977, had fallen under increasing pressure from the rebels. His impoverished nation also is facing a famine that is threatening more than seven million people.

The Soviet Union, Ethiopia's main ally for about a decade, since 1989 has greatly reduced its aid. This loss had weakened the ability of Mr. Mengistu's government to fight three major rebel incursions.

A spokesman for the rebel Ethiopian People's Democratic Revolutionary Front, which has seized a significant portion of northern Ethiopia since February, said Mr. Mengistu's departure was inevitable.

"We have been putting increasing pressure on him and now we are very close to the capital," said Asefa Mamo, speaking by telephone from his London office.

But Mr. Asefa said Mr. Mengistu's departure was simply the removal of "one evil person," and did not signal a significant change of government.

He said Gen. Tesfaye was Mr. Mengistu's right-hand man and had been responsible for the government's military strategy.

Gen. Tesfaye heads the military campaign supreme command, charged with prosecuting the war against the rebels.

"It's still the same government even if one individual is removed," said Mr. Asefa.

Nonetheless, he said, the rebels still planned peace talks that are scheduled to be held next week under U.S. mediation.

The U.S. embassy in London said the talks were still on schedule to begin Monday in London.

Yemen urges Arab states to learn from Gulf crisis

SANAA (R) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said Tuesday all Arab states should learn from the Gulf crisis and turn a new page to heal rifts caused by the events following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

Speaking on the eve of Yemen's first anniversary as a unified state, Mr. Saleh told Reuters the country was working to restore its relations with Gulf Arab neighbours angered by its stand on the crisis.

"We hope each Arab country revises its calculations — the right and the wrong — so Arabs can open a new page in their dealings on the level of regional ties and the Arab group as a world," he said.

"We hope that positions will be unified and perhaps everyone will learn a lesson from events in the Gulf that could benefit us in the future — so dealings will become more clear, more frank and more credible than was the case before the crisis," he said.

At the time the only Arab member of the U.N. Security Council, the Yemeni government, which had strong ties with Iraq, drew criticism for policies seen as pro-Iraqi.

Yemen voted for a U.N. resolution condemning Iraq's annexation of Kuwait but against another authorising the use of force against Baghdad. It abstained from several resolutions which were backed by the United

States and its allies.

As a result, Sanaa's main aid donors, the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), stopped giving petrodollars to Yemen plunging the country deeper into recession.

GCC member Saudi Arabia withdrew special residence and work privileges for Yemenis, sending home up to a million people whose remittances used to provide the impoverished country with most of its foreign exchange.

Riyadh also expelled Yemeni and Jordanian diplomats after people in both countries demonstrated against its decision to invite U.S. and foreign forces into

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Israel vows more settlements in Golan amid criticism of expulsions

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A hardline Israeli minister vowed Tuesday to build more settlements in the occupied Golan Heights while another said his country was ready for talks with Palestinians from the occupied territories.

The statements came against the backdrop of international criticism of Israel for its expulsions of Palestinians from the occupied territories and a disclosure by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Washington that he had no intention of returning to the Middle East in another bid to arrange Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, starting another Jewish town in occupied territory, vowed to double the Israeli population on the Golan Heights to ensure it never returns to Syria.

The new settlement of Kanaf, on the strategic plateau high above the Sea of Galilee, coincides with a flurry of building inside the occupied West Bank since Washington stepped up

efforts to convene peace talks.

"The aim of the government is to double the Jewish settlement that exists here today," Mr. Sharon told reporters. "Today 12,400 Jews live in the Golan Heights and we have reached the conclusion that the Jewish settlement must at least double here."

The component of settlement in the Golan Heights — as in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — is a component of security in Israel," the minister said.

Israel Radio said Monday the government had also approved a second new settlement on the Golan, which Israel "annexed" over international protests in 1981.

The radio said the chairman of the Golan settlement committee reported plans were accelerated "to demonstrate Israel's determination not to give up the Golan Heights."

Mr. Sharon said he had promised Washington not to settle Soviet Jewish immigrants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which Israel has never formally "annexed." But he said that did not apply to the Golan.

Another member of Prime Minister

Yitzhak Shamir's cabinet said in an interview published Tuesday that Israel must reach an autonomy settlement with Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Justice Minister Dan Meridor made the statement as Mr. Baker's efforts to bring about a wider peace conference involving Arab states and Palestinians appeared to face increasing difficulties.

"We have to initiate a dialogue with the Arabs in (the West Bank) in order to arrive at an intermediary solution under the autonomy formula, an independent government," Mr. Meridor told the daily Haaretz.

Mr. Meridor, who is close to Mr. Shamir but is regarded as more pragmatic, said the government has prepared to talk with any Arab from the West Bank and Gaza strip "who is not a terrorist, who does not have blood on his hands."

Mr. Meridor denied Israel's occupied settlement of Jews in the occupied territories was frustrating Baker's attempts to set up a peace conference.

It is "almost the opposite," he said.

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Hrawi seeks backing for treaty

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's President Elias Hrawi Tuesday sought the backing of Christian and Muslim religious leaders for a treaty of "special relations" with Damascus. Official sources said Mr. Hrawi contacted the country's top clerics in a bid to rally "a unified national stand" on the treaty between Beirut and Damascus. Mr. Hrawi and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad are due to sign the brotherhood, cooperation and coordination treaty at a summit conference in the Syrian capital Wednesday. Special relations with Syria have been a bone of contention between Lebanon's Christians and Muslims. While the Christians were suspicious of Syria's ambitions in Lebanon, Muslims saw in Damascus a close ally. Christian clerics and ministers voiced concern at the treaty, fearing tutelage by Syria which already has about 40,000 troops deployed in two-thirds of Lebanon. The right-wing Falange Party, which has in the past opposed Syria's political and military role in Lebanon, asked for more clarifications and adjustments in the wording of the treaty, approved by cabinet last week. "For mutual interests, we call on officials of the two countries to correct what has to be corrected and clarify what has to be clarified through a precise, sound and reassuring text," said a Falange statement.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday receives Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan upon his arrival en route to Yemen (Petra photo)

King meets Ramadan

Iraqi leader hopes for sound inter-Arab relations and unity

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday met with Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan, who arrived here earlier in the day en route to Yemen. Mr. Ramadan conveyed to the King greetings of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his pride in Jordanian-Iraqi relations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Mr. Ramadan was also received by Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The two discussed the current Arab situation and bilateral relations, Petra reported.

Mr. Ramadan said in a statement following arrival at Amman

airport that there should be exceptional efforts by all the Arab parties and the Arab League to draw up the main features of the inter-Arab relations, "which have priority over Arab states' relations with non-Arab states".

"We hope that we all, with the Arab League, will succeed in initiating sound inter-Arab relations that have the (Arab) Nation's interests as a priority," he said.

Mr. Ramadan said the dialogue between the Iraqi government and Kurdish leaders was proceed-

(Continued on page 2)

Sanctions panel retains ban on Iraqi oil sales

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council's Sanctions Committee continued to withhold permission on Tuesday for Iraq to export nearly \$1 billion worth of oil in order to buy food and other civilian supplies.

"There was no green light for oil exports," committee Chairman Peter Hohenfeller of Austria told reporters after a closed-door meeting.

He said Iraq had replied to a committee request for information on whether it had other resources that it could use to buy food.

But there was no consensus on whether the Iraqi response was sufficiently specific, he added.

Iraq asked the committee in a letter on April 14 for permission to sell oil to enable it to buy \$942.3 million worth of food and other civilian goods that it said were badly needed over the next four months.

Referring to the Iraqi letter about possible alternative means of paying, Mr. Hohenfeller said: "Several members said that it is not specific enough, it does not contain specific amounts of money or gold which would give a sufficiently clear picture of the

internal resources of Iraq.

"Other delegations said that they are satisfied with the letter. So there was no consensus on the letter."

The letter, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, contained no figures.

Dated May 19, it said all of Iraq's foreign currency assets deposited abroad with international banks and all of the revenue accruing to it after Aug. 2 — the

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq expects autonomy talks to be successful

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Tuesday it would soon announce a positive outcome of autonomy talks between the government and Kurdish rebel leaders.

"The outcome of the dialogue... will be announced in the next few days and will bolster the national unity of our people and foil the evil plots by the enemies aimed at undermining Iraq's sovereignty," the ruling Baath Party daily Al Thawra said.

Massoud Barzani, the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) leader who is heading Iraqi Kurdish guerrilla groups in the talks, said Saturday preliminary agreement had been reached for a 20-point plan to introduce democracy in Iraq.

He said differences over regional autonomy were holding up the signing of a peace deal and Baghdad had yet to agree to a key Kurdish demand to include the oil city of Kirkuk in the autonomous Kurdish region.

"The positive results of this dialogue will effectively and seriously contribute in completing the pillars of the new stage and the democratic process based on (the new) constitution and political pluralism," Al Thawra said.

"The outcome will not only be a national achievement but a historical

victory."

After the Gulf war at the end of February, the Iraqi government promised a new constitution to introduce a multi-party system in Iraq, ruled by the Baath Party since 1968.

Iraq's ruling council has decided to abolish the Revolutionary Court, which has handled all major political and security cases since its founding more than 20 years ago.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the decision was made by the Revolutionary Command Council in line with the reforms promised in March by President Saddam.

The decision, INA said, also was designed "to enhance the role of the Iraqi judiciary in accordance with its known formations, laws and powers."

Iraq has civil courts, a court of appeals, criminal courts and an Islamic court. But major cases that had any relation to national security, including political cases, were brought to the Revolutionary Court.

The Revolutionary Court has established in 1969, under the rule of Ahmad Hassan Al Bakr. He was replaced by President Saddam in 1979.

INA said that under the decision, which takes effect immediately, all cases pending at the Revolutionary Court will be turned over to the legal affairs department in the president's office, for reassignment to other courts.

The White House reacted with,

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Kuwait wants half of Iraq's oil money

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Kuwait is seeking about 50 per cent of Iraq's future oil revenues in the next year as downpayment on an estimated \$60 billion in war damages, its U.N. ambassador said Monday.

Ambassador Mohammad Abulhasan spoke as the Security Council voted to create a fund for victims of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and place its governing body in Geneva. The vote was 14 to 0 with Cuba abstaining.

The council's resolution did not designate a portion of future Iraqi oil revenues for compensation. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has to set the maximum amount Iraq has to pay and the Security Council has to approve it. Then a governing council sets the actual figure.

Mr. Abulhasan told reporters he asked Mr. Perez de Cuellar to set the ceiling at 50 per cent of Iraq's oil revenues. He said the actual amount should be the same for at least the first year.

The aim was for Kuwait to be compensated about \$60 billion within 10 years, including losses for oil fields the Iraqi army allegedly set on fire he estimated at \$120 million a day.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering said Washington also advocated a ceiling in the 50 per cent range to provide for all situations. But so far this number has little support on the council with British and French envoys speculating the ceiling will be closer to 25 per cent to 30 per cent.

Monday's resolution establishes Geneva as the venue for a policy-making governing council composed of envoys from all 15 states on the Security Council.

Their decisions are to be taken by a majority vote, with no state having veto power.

But the document specifically

notes that the governing council can decide to place other activities in another city. The British government wants the fund and the commissioners who adjudicate he claims located in London. Geneva and the Hague also are candidates.

Trade sanctions were imposed against Iraq on 6 Aug. four days after its invasion of Kuwait. But under terms of an April Security Council resolution exports, such as oil, are permitted once Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction are scrapped and a compensation fund is set up.

However, imports to Iraq will not be removed until the council deems it necessary.

Meanwhile, the White House contended Monday that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is "discredited beyond redemption and that economic sanctions against Iraq would not be lifted until he leaves power."

Spokesman Martin Fitzwater said discussion was continuing on whether the United Nations would allow Iraq to export oil and begin paying compensation.

Iraq's Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari called the resolution illegal, telling reporters the council "is being ruled virtually by one country, namely the United States." But he said Iraq had to agree to compensation because it had no other choice.

He accused the council of "planting" the seeds for its own destruction and creating instability in the region, "and all sorts of religious, political, geographical conflicts that would really undermine the whole world peace and order."

Iraq has asked for a five-year moratorium on its payments, saying its foreign debts and reconstruction costs were exorbitant.

Kandahar residents warn rebels not to attack city

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Residents of Afghanistan's battle-weary city of Kandahar are warning insurgents against a ground assault on their city, sources said. Scores of residents have tracked rebels to their hideouts in the rugged countryside and implored them to abandon their plan to attack Kandahar, Afghanistan's second-largest city.

"They are telling us: 'We are you supporters but if you attack the city innocent people will be killed and you will lose our support,'" said Minhaj, a rebel spokesman.

About 50,000 people live in Kandahar, although Minhaj said about 2,000 families have left the city in the past week.

Insurgents financed by the United States, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and other sympathetic Arab states have been fighting nearly 13 years to topple successive governments in Afghanistan.

Last week rebels launched a limited offensive against Kandahar restricting their attacks to long-range shelling of the airport and military posts surrounding the city.

Minhaj said the guerrillas are divided over whether to attack the city.

"Some say that without a significant attack on Kandahar we won't be able to push Kandahar Governor Nour Ull Haq Uloomi out of the city."

Mr. Uloomi, a hardline communist, has been Afghan President Najibullah's staunchest ally and a shrewd negotiator with tribal leaders around Kandahar, say several Afghan and Western sources.

Kandahar — the scene of some of the heaviest fighting during nine years of Soviet military intervention — has been relatively calm for almost two years largely because of cash payoff to influential tribal leaders, observers say.

In 1989 the Soviet Union withdrew 15,000 Red Army soldiers in line with a U.N. agreement. However, it continues to supply Kabul with an estimated \$300 million worth of military and humanitarian aid each month.

Moscow says its troops intervened in December 1979 at the request of the Marxist government in Kabul.

Rebels, meanwhile, claimed they shot down a government transport plane trying to land at Kandahar airport last Saturday and a helicopter gunship on the Kandahar-Kabul highway.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Nakayama to visit Iran, Egypt and Israel

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will visit Iran, Egypt and Israel in a six-day trip starting next Monday, the ministry said in a statement on Tuesday. "The main purpose of his visits is to promote bilateral relations, to exchange wide-ranging views at a high level on the regional situation after the Gulf crisis, and to promote the Middle East peace process through political dialogues," the statement said. Mr. Nakayama visited Syria last October and Egypt last August, just after Iraq invaded Kuwait. It will be his first visit to Israel and Iran, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Court postpones jailbreak trial

PIRAEUS, Greece (AP) — The trial of a Palestinian convicted in the Achille Lauro hijacking was postponed Monday after key witnesses failed to appear in court. Abdul Rahim Khaled was to stand trial along with 12 Greeks in this Athens port city for attempting to escape from Korydallos prison this month. Khaled, 56, was convicted and sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment by an Italian court for helping to plan the 1985 hijacking of the cruise ship. An American passenger was allegedly killed by the hijackers. A court spokesman said the trial was postponed until May 30 because three prison guards, all key prosecution witnesses, were not in court. He said the three men were being questioned for dereliction of duty for failing to stop the jailbreak and thus couldn't be in court to testify in the trial. Khaled was among 31 prisoners who overpowered prison guards and fled Korydallos prison May 12. Police arrested Khaled and the other 12 just outside the prison. The remaining inmates are still at large.

Prisoners, guards die after getting lost

KHARTOUM (AP) — Four prisoners and their seven guards died in northern Sudan last week after getting lost in the desert for four days during a record heat wave, an official said Monday. An official at the office of Ahmad Al Hassan Al Amin, deputy governor of the northern region, told the AP in a telephone interview that search teams looked for the eleven men for four days before finding their bodies last Thursday. "Lack of water and excessive heat killed them," said the official who declined to be named. He said the four inmates and their seven guards were travelling from Berber, 320 kilometres north of Khartoum to another town when they got lost in the desert. He did not say why the prisoners were being moved. Temperatures in northern Sudan reached up to 49C (122F) in the past week, the hottest it has been in 30 years, the government's meteorological department says.

Israeli helicopter draws gunfire

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — An Israeli helicopter gunship dropped flares over a Palestinian refugee camp in South Lebanon and drew a barrage of guerrilla anti-aircraft fire late Monday, security sources said. They said Palestinian guerrillas shot at the chopper which hovered for nearly an hour over the Rashidiyeh refugee camp near the port town of Tyre, 76 kilometres south of Beirut. Israeli fighter jets Saturday raided a base on the Syrian-backed Amal militia near Tyre, killing an Amal official and two visiting Palestinians. Eight people were wounded in the air strike.

Tourists without luggage in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (R) — Passengers from 14 flights to Israel were forced to spend Monday night without their luggage because of a six-hour wildcat strike at Ben-Gurion airport. Workers ended the walkout after the airport authority agreed to discuss their complaints about job appointments without staff committee approval, a workers' spokesman said. The strike delayed three international departures for several hours. Ground crews refused to unload luggage from 14 arriving planes and passengers were told to return to the airport outside Tel Aviv on Tuesday to claim their bags.

French units sweeping Gulf for mines

BAHRAIN (AP) — French units are still sweeping the Gulf for mines set by Iraq during the Gulf war — and finding them. "The mines do not know there is a ceasefire," Commander Philippe Corvert of the French ship Loire said Monday. The Loire is a support ship for two minesweepers, l'Aigle and l'Oreon, on a port call in Bahrain. The ships have been deployed off Kuwait. Crewmen said they have been training in Toulon for years, searching for explosives still lurking from the days of World War II. Their catch, they say, is about 10 a year. "But in the Gulf it is riches of mines," said a sailor aboard the l'Aigle, who would not give his name. The French say they have dealt with 520 mines over the past three months. French minesweepers are teamed with British, Belgian, Italian, German, American and Saudi units working off the coast of Kuwait. They are trying to clear the estimated 1,200 to 1,500 mines the Iraqis said they sowed during the Gulf war. About two-thirds have been eliminated, officials say.

TASS agency to open bureau in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — The official Soviet news agency TASS is opening a permanent bureau in Israel for the first time since Moscow severed ties with Israel 24 years ago. "TASS representative in Israel came to my office and I gave him an Israeli press card. The bureau will open in a month," Yossi Olmert, Israel's government press office director, told Reuters Tuesday. The Soviet Union cut off diplomatic relations with Israel over the 1967 war. But links have been improving since 1987. Mr. Olmert said the Soviet Union had allowed Israeli television and radio to open offices in Moscow.

Iraqi minister warns of unexploded bombs

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq has warned its people that bombs dropped by the U.S. and its allies in the Gulf war were still lying unexploded in the countryside. "The warplanes of the American-Atlantic aggression dropped cluster bombs on all parts of Iraq," Information Minister Hamid Yousef Hummadi said in a statement reported by the Iraqi News Agency. He urged Iraqis not to touch or pick up bombs and to call in the police or army to blow them up.

Yemenis vote in unity constitution

SANAA (R) — Yemenis have voted to back the new constitution of their country, reunited after three centuries of division.

Announcing the results of the year-old country's first popular vote, Sanaa Television said later Monday 1.36 million people — about a third of the electorate — took part in the referendum on Wednesday and Thursday.

A total of 1.34 million voted in favour of the constitution while 1.5 per cent voted against, the television said. The rest of the votes were disqualified for not following procedures correctly.

"The majority of the people have voted for the constitution and this describes and first

anniversary of the republic as the most significant event in Arab contemporary history," a statement from the referendum committee said.

Traditionalist North Yemen merged with the socialist South last May 22.

Officials and diplomats said about 1.8 million of the four million men and women eligible to vote had registered. Most of Yemen's 11.6 million people are under 18 years old.

Opponents of the 128-article constitution — drawn up during merger talks between the North and South in the 1970s — called for a boycott of the referendum.

and said the poll results would not represent the majority Yemenis.

Diplomats had predicted a per cent "Yes" vote for the constitution and said many Yemenis did not register for the referendum because they were simply not interested in politics.

About 25,000 demonstrators, mainly bearded men from northern Islamic groups, marched through the capital's main street last Sunday to protest against the referendum.

The march was organised by political coalition backed both Muslim fundamentalists and liberal intellectuals.

King

(Continued from page 1)

ing well and that important measures to address the Kurdish problem would be taken soon. He said he hoped the results of the dialogue would be announced within days.

"There is a conviction by all the Kurds that the results will be for the best of the national unity so that we could overcome all difficulties which the enemies of Iraq are trying to create among parties forming the base of Iraq," he added.

The reconstruction process in Iraq, he said, is going on at high speed and that life has returned to normality in Iraq.

"Electricity and telephone communications have been returned to all governorates and a large percentage of oil refineries were repaired," he affirmed.

Mr. Ramadan is on his way to Sanaa where he will take part in celebrations of the first anniversary of Yemeni unity. Mr. Ramadan was received upon arrival by Prime Minister Badran and the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan.

Gandhi

(Continued from page 1)

sent Indian army troops to the island nation of Sri Lanka bidding to end years of ethnic strife between the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority.

But the Indian leader became enmeshed in a 24-year stalemate war with the militants and India withdrew from the Indian Ocean island in March 1990, six months after Mr. Gandhi left office.

Mr. Gandhi had been on the target list of Sikh terrorists fighting for an independent nation in northern Punjab state, but the Sikhs have not been known to operate in Tamil Nadu.

Rajiv Gandhi was born Aug. 20, 1944, in Bombay. He was married to Sonia Maino in 1968, and together they had two children.

The slain prime minister was a graduate in mechanical engineering from Trinity College, Cambridge, and also had studied at the Imperial College in London from 1962 to 1965.

He was a pilot for Indian Airlines from 1972 to 1981, entering politics after his older brother Sanjay was killed. Sanjay had been the designated political heir to Indira's rule.

Rajiv Gandhi was elected to parliament in 1981 from the region of Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, and re-elected in 1984.

The assassination came amid the bloodiest election in India's 44-year history as an independent nation. Clashes were reported Tuesday in four northern towns amid spreading sectarian strife over the parliamentary election.

Indian news agencies reported riots were continuing in the towns of Meerut, Varanasi, Kanpur and Deoband. Curfews had been clamped in the four towns, all in Uttar Pradesh state, and army troops called out, the reports said (see page 8).

Pakistan, India's traditional enemy, expressed shock at the killing of Mr. Gandhi.

"Our reaction is one of profound shock and deep grief at the tragedy that has overtaken India," said Foreign Secretary Mohammad Shaharyar Khan.

"Pakistan condemns all acts of terrorism and mourns the loss of a distinguished leader of India," he said.

President George Bush called the assassination a tragic loss and said, "I just don't know what the world is coming to."

Mr. Bush reacted to the death of Mr. Gandhi in talking to reporters

briefly during an Oval Office picture-taking session with Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle.

"When people resort to a democratic country — or anywhere — to violence, it's just appalling. I just don't know what the world is coming to. It's a sad thing for this young man to have lost his life this way," Mr. Bush said.

He said he personally mourned the loss of Mr. Gandhi, saying he and his wife Barbara were close to Mrs. Gandhi and his wife. He recalled meeting Indira Gandhi, not long before she was shot to death.

British Prime Minister John Major said Mr. Gandhi's death robbed world politics of "a very brave man" but Indian democracy would survive the killing.

"He was a very brave man, a man of very rare qualities," Mr. Major told reporters. "He had very many friends in the Commonwealth and in this country. We will miss him a very great deal."

Asked if he thought democracy in India would survive, Mr. Major said: "Oh yes. India is a very vibrant democracy and I have no doubt it will survive."

Opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock said Mr. Gandhi had "mixed courage with gentleness. His murderers have inflicted a great loss on the world and on his country."

Paddy Ashdown, leader of the centrist Liberal Democrats, called it "tragedy for India and a bitter blow for democracy."

Commonwealth Secretary-General chief Eneke Anyaoku said Mr. Gandhi's death was a grave blow to the organisation of former British-ruled nations, adding: "He represented a strong rallying point for India."

170,000

(Continued from page 1)

The study reports the state of malnutrition "so high as to indicate the real possibility of famine in Iraq if food shortages are not relieved." Malnutrition is also exacerbated by an increase of water-borne diseases.

The study team visited major cities in Iraq, including Najaf, Karbala, Zubayr, Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Fallujah, Kirkuk, Mosul, Sulaymaniah, and Tikrit, along with other smaller towns throughout the north, south and central regions of the country, and conducted their research (except for Basra) without any governmental interference.

The study team, comprised of three physicians, one public health specialist, two lawyers and four law students, says it witnessed cases of widespread epidemics. According to the report, gastroenteritis, cholera, and typhoid are now considered epidemics throughout Iraq.

"The incidence of water-borne diseases increased suddenly and strikingly during the early months of 1991 as a result of the destruction of electrical generating plants in the Gulf war and the consequent failure of water purification and sewage treatment systems," the report reads.

The team also predicts that epidemics will surge in the coming months and will fester with the heat of the summer. "Even when water-borne diseases are not preventable due to incapacitated water purification and sewage treatment systems, such diseases would still be treatable if Iraq's medical system were able to function."

The study team's report contradicts the statements of the Iraqi government and Western media reports which assert that the

health situation is stable and will continue to improve. The researchers predict that unless the situation is dealt with immediately, it will continue to break down over the next year.

"The collapse of electricity-generating capacity has been a crucial factor in this public health catastrophe. Without electricity, hospitals cannot function, penicillin medicines spoil, water cannot be purified, and raw sewage cannot be processed," the report reads.

According to the study team, the report has been praised internationally as a landmark health experts. Dr. Harvey Fineberg, dean of the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Bernard Lown, professor of cardiology at the Harvard School of Public Health and the American heart of the Nobel-laureate International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Dr. Jonathan Mann, professor of epidemiology and international health at the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Anthony Robbins, professor of public health at Boston University School of Public Health, and Dr. Carl Taylor, professor emeritus of the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health.

The MacArthur foundation funded the study team's visit Iraq between April 28 and May

Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

skeptical Monday to the agreement between the Iraqi government and Kurdish rebels and pledged to resist any easing of sanctions on Iraq, long as President Saddam Hussein remains in power.

"We want to wait and see if real," presidential spokesman Marwan Fattouh said of reports of an accord to end the refugee crisis.

President George Bush said he opposes lifting economic sanctions against Iraq "as long as Saddam Hussein is in power."

Mr. Bush has often made clear preference to see President Saddam removed from power, and has said normalised relations with the United States would not be possible as long as the Iraqi leader remained in power.

Asked about normalised relations with Iraq at a joint news conference with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Mr. Bush said, "at this juncture we don't want to lift sanctions as long as Saddam Hussein is in power."

His comment echoed a remark made earlier in the day by Secretary of State James Baker. "We are interested in seeking a relaxation of sanctions as long as Saddam Hussein is in power."

Iraq said Tuesday that nearly per cent of Zakho's Kurds had turned home.

INA quoted Daoud Hassan Sulman, administrative officer of a northern Iraqi town on the border with Turkey, as saying 80,000 of the town's 103,000 people had returned by Monday.

Zakho is under the control of U.S.-led allies who set up safe havens north of the 36th parallel in Iraq encourage the return of Kurds who fled to Turkey and Iran after the crushed post-Gulf war rebellions.

INA said the government was distributing food and medicine and allowing water to the Kurds in Zakho.

Iraq's U.N. representative said Monday the United Nations guarantee sent to Iraq would be a symbolic presence rather than a symbolic force.

Ten key parties to contest Algeria polls

ALGIERS (R) — Ten main political parties will contest most of the 542 seats for Algeria's new National Assembly in the country's first multi-party elections next month.

The front-runners are the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN). In office since independence in 1962, which will contest all the seats and the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the main opposition party which has candidates in 528 constituencies.

The fundamentalist FIS, led by Abbassi Madani, has emerged as the largest opposition group since President Chadli Benjedid launched a programme to liberalise Algerian politics and economics after nearly three decades of one-party socialist rule.

In local government elections a year ago the FIS won more than half of the seats on municipal councils.

The more moderate Muslim fundamentalist Hamas party led by Mahfoud Nahnah, which emerged only a few weeks ago to rival the FIS, will put up 366 candidates.

A small centre-right group, the Algerian Party (PRA) which unsuccessfully tried to create an alliance with seven minor parties to challenge the FLN, will field 426 candidates.

The movement For Democracy in Algeria (MDA) led by former president Ahmad Ben Bella, which also failed to create an anti-FLN Alliance, has 367 candidates.

The Socialist Forces Front (FFS), a Berber party led by independence war hero Hocine Ait Ahmed, has candidates in 273 constituencies, mainly in Berber areas like Setif east of Algiers where Mr. Ahmad himself will run for election.

Algeria has 'Peace' nuclear reactor

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria says it has named a nuclear research centre the "Assalam" (peace) reactor to counter U.S. and British press reports that it was designed to help produce nuclear weapons.

Haj Slimane Cherif, minister in charge of research, said in a television programme Monday night that the reactor would be used to train scientists, engineers and technicians. He denied it would be able to recycle plutonium for military use.

British military attaché Group Captain William Cross was asked to leave Algeria last month when he was found with a camera near the nuclear centre. Later, the Washington Post and Sunday Times of London said China was

helping Algeria to build a nuclear reactor for military purposes.

Algeria and China denied the reports. They said the reactor was very small, with a capacity of 10 megawatts.

Mr. Cherif said China was chosen to help build the reactor because its prices were low. Other countries like France, Germany and the United States had posed political conditions or delayed their response to Algeria's requests, he said.

China agreed to supply the reactor in February 1983 for the nuclear centre near Ain Oussera, 270 kilometres south of Algiers at the foot of the Atlas Mountains.

The site was chosen because of the abundance of water needed to cool the reactor and because it

was less prone to earth tremors than other areas, according to the centre's director, Tatch Boualem.

The Sunday Times said the size of towers at the installation indicated it had a 40-megawatt reactor.

Mr. Cherif, asked why Western countries issued no comments following the press reports, replied: "After secret and official contacts, they concluded they were mistaken regarding the reactor's peaceful nature."

Algeria has another nuclear reactor, with one-megawatt capacity. It was supplied by Argentina in April 1969 and is located at Douera about 20 kilometres south of Algiers.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:30 Children's programme
18:30 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 After Henry
21:10 Our House
22:00 News in English
22:30 Behaving Badly

PRAYER TIMES

06:59 Fajr
07:30 (Sunrise) Duha
12:32 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr
19:54 Maghrib
20:05 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810700
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Assiut Catholic Church Tel. 713331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiut International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654922
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be fair and winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./max. temp.
12 / 22
Aqaba 20 / 32
Dhahran 12 / 26
Jordan Valley 18 / 29

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Kayed Halseya 793522
Dr. Saleh Al Usoud 690728
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hamid 677436
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali 740740
Firas Pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 78336
Al Azema pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 646945
Shmeisat pharmacy 637660
IRBID:
Dr. Abdul Majid Sababhin (—)
Al Sharsa pharmacy (275825)

NIGHT DUTY

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 61111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (—)

EMERGENCIES

Dr. Mousou Hanna (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417
ZARQA:
Dr. Mousou Hanna (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

Jordanian, Iraqi transport companies sign agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Express Tourist and Transport Company (JETT) and the Iraqi Public Transport Corporation have concluded an agreement to operate daily land trips between Amman and Baghdad, starting in June, using airconditioned buses.

The agreement provides for JETT to operate two daily trips from Amman to Baghdad and two trips back.

According to Aysar Safi, who represented the Iraqi corporation, the two sides have also reached agreement to facilitate the passage of Jordanian and Iraqi travellers in either direction now that the Iraqi authorities

have allowed Iraqi citizens to travel freely abroad.

Mr. Safi, who signed the agreement with JETT Director Adnan Mufti, said he had met with Suleiman Al Hababeh, the director of the Public Transport Corporation (PTC), to exchange views about Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation in overland transport operations.

He said that the Iraqi corporation aimed at opening direct road links with all Arab countries. He said that Iraq possesses more than 2,000 buses which can be put into operation to link Iraq with other Arab countries by overland transport.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday holds talks with a group of British parliamentarians visiting Jordan (Petra photo)

Crown Prince, British MPs stress need for peace in region

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday stressed the need for the world community to deal with one criterion in implementing international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council resolutions in all world issues, and to speed up efforts to establish peace and security in the Middle East.

Speaking at a meeting with a group of British parliamentarians now visiting Jordan, the Crown Prince stressed the importance that any peace-making process in the Middle East should be comprehensive, encompassing security, political and economic dimensions within the framework of a regional concept.

In discussing the security concept for the Middle East, the Crown Prince emphasised the need to deal with such issues as energy, water and disarmament and urged the world community to deal with all issues of the region on equal footing.

The head of the delegation, David Howell, said after the meeting with the Crown Prince that the various issues of the region were discussed within the framework of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian-Israeli issue.

"The delegation members had useful and constructive discussions with the Crown Prince and they came away with a better picture of the situation in the region and Jordan's problems resulting from the past crises," Mr. Howell, who is head of the House of Commons Foreign Relations Select Committee, said in his statement.

Mr. Howell said that the world community should work towards dealing with the root causes of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem. Commenting on the delegation's visit, he said that it was part of a tour to gather information and to assess the situation prior to contributing towards a settlement.

He said that the parliamentary delegation, which has visited seven Middle East capitals, including Tehran and Ankara, will submit their report and recommendations to the British House of Commons. He said Britain seeks to establish stability in the Middle East and enhance world peace.

Transport tariffs will harm economy, force truckers out of business — official

AMMAN (Petra) — A government imposed tariff for overland transport of goods, phosphate and other commodities is considered by truck owners as harmful to their interest; the tariff can cause serious harm to the national economy because it is forcing the trucks out of business, according to Qasem Esoub, president of the Truck Owners Association.

In his statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Esoub said Jordanians own around 9,000 trucks, refrigerator trucks and tankers which play a very important role in the Kingdom's economy because they are the main tools for the imports/exports industry. "Yet these trucks are operating at a loss and the drivers are facing mounting problems in every sector," Mr. Esoub said.

For instance, he said, trucks operating between Aqaba and Amman charge JD 8.85 per tonne, while those transporting goods to neighbouring Arab countries charge JD 18 per tonne.

He said this tariff did not help cover the cost of transportation in terms of fuel, wages of drivers and other costs, and the association is holding contacts with the Ministry of Transport to raise the tariff a little to match the rising operational costs.

The truck owners are justified in their demand for a higher tariff since the operational cost per truck along the Aqaba-Amman route now stands at JD 7,304 a year, while the annual income does not exceed JD 6,090 annually, Mr. Esoub said.

He said that along external routes each truck's operational cost is estimated at JD 18,585 at a time when a truck owner earns an average JD 17,415 only. In addition to all that he said, each truck owner is faced with the risk of accidents and other damages on the road. "In view of this heavy burden each truck owner is now trying to get rid of his vehicle," Mr. Esoub pointed out.

the driver is operating without any profit.

For this reason the truck owners are demanding that the tariff be increased by JD 15 for each external trip, JD 8 for the internal trips and JD 3 for transporting phosphate so that the trucks can pursue their business with some profit.

Mr. Esoub suggested that a solution to the problem could be the creation of a unified office to organise and control trips and be fair in distribution of import export operations in the phosphate industry and other fields.

Mr. Esoub also suggested that customs duty be reduced on trucks so that Jordanians who now own more than 1,550 trucks with a temporary licence plate can pay their dues and have a Jordanian licence plate.

At present these trucks pay JD 500 a year as temporary duty, plus a JD 100 fee for a six month licence, Mr. Esoub pointed out. He said that by reducing the rate of customs duty the country would not be in need to import trucks which cost JD 120,000 each.

Forum tackles Muslim Christian relationship

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an open forum held to discuss Christian-Muslim relationship in the region, interlocutors Raouf Abu Jaber and the Kingdom's mufti, Sheikh Izzeddin Khatib Al Tamimi agreed that such forums should be held continuously, in an organised manner, stressing that the purpose behind such forums is to close the gap between the two religions.

Sheikh Al Tamimi, who started the discussion, said that Islam had always encouraged dialogue. By quoting verses from the Koran, Sheikh Al Tamimi stressed that Islam also shows the way in which a righteous Muslim should conduct a debate.

"One of the main principles of Islam is for people to establish good relations and to live in a society built on trust and security not on animosity, hate and vengeance," Sheikh Al Tamimi said.

He also added that Islam, as a religion, had always been tolerant towards other religions, especially Christianity and Judaism, and had treated members of those religions with the same dignity and respect Muslims themselves were treated.

"The Holy Koran proclaims the dignity of man, and Islam rules against forcing people to convert into Islam

against their own will," he said describing the spirit of Islam.

According to the mufti, Christian-Muslim dialogue in Jordan started in 1984 under the auspices of Crown Prince Hassan.

Mr. Abu Jaber, who had previously engaged in a similar debate in Geneva, said that historically Arab Christians had always fought alongside their Muslim brothers against any external threat to the region, even if that threat was posed by non-Arab Christians.

"There is a strong relationship among the Arab masses, born from a pluralistic system especially evident in Jordan," Mr. Abu Jaber said.

Mr. Abu Jaber agreed with the Mufti on the need to continue such constructive debates based on mutual respect. He added that Christian Arabs had always supported their Muslim brothers because of a feeling of duty and loyalty, and not because they were forced to do that.

"Religion is for God, and the homeland is for everyone," Mr. Abu Jaber said. This thought, regarded by many of the more conservative attendees to the debate as a call for secularism, was seen by some of the more liberal attendees as a way to counter any external threat against the region, especially the Zionist threat that aims at dividing the core of the Arab World using any possible means.

JD 70m granted by Germany to the Kingdom

is to help the balance of payment, imports

German grant to help Jordan cope with economic losses

AMMAN (J.T.) — Germany has granted Jordan Deutschmark 150 million, nearly JD 70 million, in a bid to help the Kingdom cope with economic losses sustained during the Gulf crisis.

An agreement on the grant was signed here Tuesday by Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah and Matthias Meyer, charge d'affaires at the German Embassy.

The agreement covers an untied grant, as commodity aid, as announced during a visit to Jordan last February by German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher.

According to a German Embassy statement, Mr. Genscher exerted special efforts to get the German government's approval of the aid despite the financial budgetary constraints Germany is facing at the moment.

As Mr. Genscher pointed out during the visit, the ongoing

financial support for Jordan was a sign of German-Jordanian friendship and of the importance Germany attaches to the Kingdom's stability, the statement noted.

The minister said, upon signing the agreement, that the grant was in addition to Germany's regular financial aid offered to the Kingdom.

The new grant, he said, will help the Kingdom's balance of payment and finance Jordan's imports of various commodities and services from other nations.

According to Dr. Abdullah, the grant will be channelled to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) by the German Development Bank.

With this grant Germany has thereby made considerable efforts to help the Kingdom cope with the adverse effects of the Gulf crisis. In 1990 a grant of Deutschmark 180 million also as untied commodity aid, was decided upon by the German gov-

ernment in addition to a commodity aid of Deutschmark 20 million as a soft loan.

As humanitarian aid, to help Jordan deal with the influx of evacuees from the Gulf region during 1990, Germany gave Deutschmark 21.3 million to international as well as Jordanian organisations, according to the embassy statement.

With the supply of the new grant, financial cooperation between Jordan and Germany has so far amounted to Deutschmark 1,238 million. These contributions in the field of financial cooperation are supplemented by German-Jordanian technical cooperation which, including the year 1990, have reached the sum of Deutschmark 350 million, according to the statement.

It said that the cumulative total of Germany's economic cooperation, including technical and financial cooperation extended to Jordan, thus far amounts to Deutschmark 1,588 million.

UNICEF to implement nutrition programme in southern Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prompted by the findings of a rapid assessment carried out last December by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, which rated the impact of the Gulf crisis on the socio-economic conditions of Jordanian families, UNICEF has drawn up long and short term plans to help address problems facing women and children, according to UNICEF's Jordan Programme Officer Hind Khatib.

Ms. Khatib noted that the children's fund of the United Nations had embarked on the implementation of a nutrition programme covering six villages in the south of Jordan, namely Wadi Arabs, Disi, Tuwaisah, Kuwairah, Mneishi. Under the programme, pregnant women and nursing mothers suffering from anaemia as well as children below one year will get food free of charge.

The programme also provides milk and supplementary feeding for children below five years of age.

UNICEF's report found out that 1,200 children were suffering from malnutrition and anaemia, and that 35,000 pregnant mothers were anemic.

Statistics have shown that 12.5 per cent of the children below 12 years of age, who come at health centres, were suffering from malnutrition.

Physicians treating those children were unanimous on the need to give them nutritious food and vitamins.

Ms. Khatib pointed out that a UNICEF-funded nutrition programme would provide nutritious food for such children throughout Jordan. Ms. Khatib said that UNICEF was currently considering a proposal for setting up latrines in schools lacking such sanitary facilities in the southern regions of Jordan.

UNICEF has recently provided \$200,000 to support maternal and child health centres, as well as \$150,000 for purchasing educational materials and equipping school laboratories in the southern regions.

Committee recommends setting up nursing faculty at Muta University

AMMAN (J.T.) — A committee formed by Muta University President Awar Khatib to prepare a study on the establishment of a nursing faculty at the university recommended the establishment of the faculty at an estimated cost of JD 3.5 million to serve both the military and the civilian sectors.

Muta Vice-President for Academic Affairs Dr. Abdul Rahman Atiyat said in a statement to Al Ra'i Arabic daily published Tuesday that the committee referred its recommendations to Higher Education Minister Said Al Tal. He said the committee anticipated that teaching at the faculty would start within two or three years after the higher council approves the establishment of the faculty and allocates funds needed for the project.

The committee, Dr. Atiyat said, proposed sending students on scholarships to get the needed degrees to become members of the teaching staff at the faculty.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran has called last January for conducting a study on the prospect of establishing a nursing faculty at the university in response to a proposal presented by Lower House of Parliament member Abdullah Zureiqat.

Dr. Khatib has later formed a committee comprising Dr. Atiyat, as chairman and, as members the University of Jordan's Nursing Faculty Dean Dr. Samih Abul Ragheb, the Jordan University of Science and Technology's (JUST) Nursing Faculty Dean Dr. Ruwaidah Ma'aitah as well as Dr. Hassan Tantawi and Dr. Adnan Mubaidin of Muta University.

The university has decided to have the graduation ceremony of the fourth batch of students at the military sector on June 16 under the Royal patronage of His Majesty King Hussein.

The university's various committees are also preparing for holding the graduation ceremony of the second batch of the civilian sector students under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on June 3.

The number of students who will graduate from both the civilian and military sections stands at 750 students.

CONDOLENCES

The Editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing of
Mohammad Ihsan Khaled Bustani
18-year-old son of their friend and colleague Ihsan Khaled. May God bless his soul.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITION

- ☆ Art exhibition by Nazir Ismail at the French Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Exhibition of etchings, lithographs and monographs, by Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Duweik at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. — 5 p.m.)

Offer of incentives to Petra Bank debtors stirs controversy

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), in charge of liquidating Petra Bank, is offering incentives to debtors of the collapsed institution to repay their dues before Aug. 20, one year and two months after Petra Bank was ordered liquidated by the Economic Security Committee (ESC). But the move has drawn criticism from economists and banking experts who describe the move as too generous.

The Central Bank has announced that all Petra Bank debtors who repay their dues in cash before the deadline will be granted a 25 per cent write off of the amount effective on the day of payment. Those who offer real estate will be given a write-off of 15 per cent after experts appointed by the liquidation committee assess the actual value of the property involved.

No accurate estimate of the dues owed to Petra is available, but it is doubtful, according to sources close to the Petra Bank affair, that repayment in the form of real estate will be close to the actual figures.

"In many cases, the collateral — land or buildings — placed with the bank for loans is far below acceptable banking standards," said a banking official. "As much as JD 50,000 have been lent to a single client whose collateral — a plot of land in Amman — is not worth more than 15,000," he cited an example of what many banking experts describe as the "totally unorthodox and imprudent banking practices" which led to the ESC takeover of Petra Bank in August 1988 and the subsequent liquidation order in May 1990.

But the CBJ decision has drawn criticism of a different nature from those who feel that the incentives are too generous. "There are two types of Petra Bank debtors," said one economist. "Those who do not have the means to pay and those who have," he asserted. "Those who do not have cannot be coerced into repaying their debts no matter what the concessions are. So the move is ineffective against these people."

"On the other hand, why should those who have the means to pay enjoy any write-off?" added the economist, who preferred anonymity. "Laws of this country permit the authorities to seize the

mortgaged property as partial payment of the debtor and then pursue the case through the courts to get full payment," he said.

Furthermore, added a banker, "those debtors who have already paid their dues to the bank feel cheated now. They argue that those who paid up promptly were not offered any incentive while those who procrastinated are going to get write-offs."

"In any event, many of the Petra Bank debtors are vulnerable to pressure and exposure, and this in itself is a strong card in the hands of the liquidating committee," he said.

The CBJ, which, under a mandate from the ESC, took over Petra Bank in August 1989, estimates that the "unrecoverable" losses of the once-thriving institution could be between JD 150 million and JD 200 million, making it the biggest-ever loss any Jordanian firm has ever suffered. Part of these losses are expected to be made up for by funds from the CBJ.

It is not known yet how far the authorities have progressed in their quest to extradite some of the key officials of Petra Bank, including Ahmad Chalah, chairman and general manager.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, congratulating him on the first anniversary of Yemen's unification and expressing his heartfelt wishes to the Yemeni president, government and people on the occasion. The King wished President Saleh continued good health and happiness and the Yemeni people further progress and prosperity. On the occasion, an official delegation headed by the King's political advisor left for Sanaa Tuesday to convey the congratulations of the King and the Jordanian people and government to President

Saleh and the Yemeni people. The delegation includes the minister of industry and trade, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Airforce and the assistant to the chief of general staff.

King attends graduation ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday attends the graduation of a new batch of the recruits from the Royal War College. The King will also deliver a political address, in which he will outline the developments of the post-Gulf war phase, and the lessons learnt from the crisis. The King will also talk about the

political efforts currently being made to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question and to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Masri arrives in Ankara

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri arrived in Ankara Tuesday, beginning a three-day official visit to Turkey for talks with Turkish officials on means of enhancing bilateral relations. In an arrival statement, Mr. Masri said he would convey a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Turkish President Turgut Ozal.

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All for a T-shirt

THE WORLD had a taste of Kuwaiti justice being rendered in the ongoing summary trials of alleged collaborators with Iraqi occupation of Kuwait when an Iraqi man was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for simply wearing a Saddam Hussein T-shirt. This absurd and patently arbitrary sentence has rightly shocked the international community, including the very countries which went to such lengths to free Kuwait less than three months ago. What started to be only complaints by the press and other private and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) against Kuwaiti reneging on promises to conduct fair trials has now become official protests by governments including the U.S. and the U.K. President George Bush went out of his way Monday to draw Kuwaitis' attention to the need to carry out fair and just trials in spite of its tribulations during its occupation. The British government has also called on the Emirate to be fair to itself by being fair to those accused of collaborating with the enemy during the period of occupation. Other nations of the world have also joined the chorus of governmental complaints against Kuwaiti "justice."

Coming as it does on the heels of Kuwait going back on its word to introduce democracy, the current summary trials are additional signs that the lessons of the Gulf crisis have yet to dawn on Kuwaiti authorities. Defence lawyers, including those appointed by the state to defend foreign and Arab nationals accused of aiding and abetting the Iraqi occupation, are complaining, *inter alia*, that the evidence against their clients is not being made public. They are also charging that confessions had been extracted under torture. "In my 10 years as a lawyer," complained one defence lawyer, "I have never heard of ghost" witnesses. "You say you have witnesses," he challenged the prosecutor in the martial court, "then let's call them and let's examine them."

Adnan Abdul Hassan Ali, punished severely for wearing the Saddam Hussein shirt, has become a case celebre due to the harshness and unreasonableness of his sentence. It was just the straw that broke the camel's back.

While the world can and should be sympathetic to the ordeals of Kuwait and Kuwaitis under occupation and comprehend the need to prosecute those who had criminally aided and abetted the occupation in the full sense of the word, it cannot remain silent in the face of the outrageous administration of justice in Kuwait. Of all countries, the Emirate should be the first to pay tribute to justice and fairness after it had suffered so dearly from injustice. The ruling family has an opportunity to prove its commitment to democracy, freedom and justice for all by taking immediate measures in those directions. Anything short of that is certain to not only blight that family's image but also that of Kuwait as a whole.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily challenged France, Britain and the United States to express their sympathy with the Palestinian people and to clearly declare whether the Palestinians are humans like other people to the world. The paper said that the western countries had exercised various forms of pressure on the Soviet Union under the slogan of human rights and forced Moscow to allow the Jews to emigrate to Palestine and to be settled on occupied Arab territories, but failed to voice a word of support for the oppressed Palestinians who are being evicted from their homeland by force, killed, displaced or detained. Again, these western countries created the so-called Kurdish problem by doing everything in their power to see the Kurds displaced, and later voiced their total solidarity with them and sent in troops to provide them with protection, the paper noted. But, it said, these same nations have been watching the Palestinians suffer and exposed to Israeli atrocities without taking any practical step to bring them justice or exposing the Israeli inhuman practices and demanding an end to such repression. This hypocritical attitude and these false sentiments displayed towards the Kurds and the Jews, but not towards the Palestinians, reflect the western countries continued hostility towards the Arab Nation and manifest the inhuman and unethical character of the western leaders, the paper continued. We are not surprised to see the western nations condoning Israel's atrocities and refraining from any move that could halt Israel's racist and brutal practices, said the paper. By maintaining support for the Israeli monster, the western nations have thus revealed their true image as enemies of all human values.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily voices the complaints of the majority of people who call at public health centres and clinics in the urban and rural areas who, he claims, continue to suffer due to the low standard services offered to them. Samir Hiyari says that one visit to any health centre or hospital, from Al Bashir Hospital in Amman to those in Tafleh and Karak in the south and Ramtha and Irbid hospitals in the north, is enough to reveal these facts. The writer notes that the shortages at hospitals and the lack of proper services at the health centres had earlier attracted columnists in the local press; and that there were repeated statements by health officials about plans for improvements, but the situation is far from being satisfactory. The writer calls on Minister of Health Adnan Jalouli to visit the governorates and inspect the hospitals to see for himself the long queues of waiting people who are far from being satisfied by the services offered to them. He says that projects for new hospitals turned out to be luxurious offices for directors of existing hospitals or specialists, and new annexes to existing hospitals were not meant to deal with chronic illnesses from which the majority of the patients suffer. The writer also points out that hospitals and health centres lack proper means for cleanliness and other measures of public health safety; and he calls on the minister to direct the health departments towards better services to the public.

Economic Forum

Pollution: Unlearned lesson of economic development

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

ECONOMIC development has not lent itself yet to rational economic understanding. Nobody claims he knows for sure why, when and how this process takes place, plausibly because economic development has not a single secret nor a standard set of secrets. It does not seem that it follows a unified path in each and every country; it simply takes place when a variety of factors combine and interact amongst themselves and with the respective environment.

Some schools of thought tend to ascribe economic progress or lack of it to religion in the sense that they suggest it has something to do with religion and the concomitant culture that emanates from it. This is not convincing as the less developed countries of Latin America have the same religion prevailing in the highly advanced countries of North America. Southeast Asian countries constitute another negative example as some of them are advanced, others are semi-advanced and a third part of them are underdeveloped countries.

The South-North dichotomy is another competing hypothesis aspiring to explain variations in economic development. Yet one can hardly classify Australia, South Africa and New Zealand as less developed countries nor can we classify the Soviet Union and some East European countries as advanced regions.

The social value system, including attitudes towards economic

activity, was accorded some significance in this respect. But consider an individual from a society heavily charged with all sorts of unfavourable values being transferred to an economically advanced society. Before long he starts to behave as a new economic "creature" and becomes an agent of economic development, whose actions conform to the requirements of an advanced economy.

However, it seems that capital accumulation is a common denominator in successful economic development cases. This must be so because development entails necessarily and primarily the production of more goods and services, which is not realisable without that accumulation. But let a factory be built by an advanced country in an underdeveloped one and it will stagnate after a few years. Building hundreds of such factories will not change the picture and is not therefore sufficient to ignite a self-sustained (industrial) growth. Obviously, what this country needs to initiate a sustained economic development is something more than "projects," sophisticated or otherwise. Inter alia, it needs, for example, efficient management.

In the absence of sufficient knowledge of the rules that enable them to achieve successful economic development, less developed countries had, unfortunately, to copy some of the experiences of advanced countries without giving due regard to the applicability

of the copied models to their particular needs and circumstances. From the centrally-planned economies, which we developed enough by the standards of the 1950s and 1960s, less developed countries emulated the model of the interventionist state which has a fat public sector and a system of market economies they ment planning. From the advanced market economies they developed a taste, or a thirst, for industrialisation. Factories seemed to them the expressive and powerful symbols of progress and economic development. Implicitly, they inherited pollution and economic development. Industry is the greatest polluter ever. A strategy of development based on priority to industrialisation is, in the long run, a self-defeating one to a developing country which can neither afford to invest in techniques to prevent pollution nor contain it when it erupts and spreads.

It is ironic for less developed countries (LDCs) to insist on such a strategy after they have seen its grave consequences in the West and when they still can import their manufactured needs from advanced countries and have the option to transfer investments from manufacturing to sectors like agriculture or services. Manufacturing units in LDCs are not only small scale and therefore less efficient if not uneconomical altogether, but are great polluters. Our sad experience in the Jordan Valley and the King Talal Dam is a very sad reminder of that and a tragic testimony to it.

Non-aligned group seeks new mission in changed world

By Donna Bryson

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The Non-Aligned Movement, whose name and membership never matched, was born as an alternative to cold war alliances and probably will die with them unless it finds a new mission.

Amre Moussa, Egypt's U.N. ambassador, said the movement is in disarray and an American diplomat said it must choose a new course.

Edward C. Luck, chairman of the United Nations Association of the USA described the loosely organised movement as "an empty vessel waiting to be filled." He said its history and broad membership could give it special stature.

With the United Nations as its main arena, the Non-Aligned movement built a reputation as an often strident lobby for the Third World.

Its founding summit took place in Belgrade in 1961. President Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India and Gamal Abdul Nasser, president of Egypt, pledged that it would remain aloof from the increasingly dangerous rivalry between the Soviet Union and United States.

There were 25 members in the beginning, and they declared a commitment to the pursuit of disarmament. They promised to shun military alliances, and said they would mediate East-West conflicts when the opportunity arose.

Some already had chosen sides, however — Cuba was a founding member — and the ranks of those increased as the membership grew to the current 103.

Diplomats say that, now that the cold war is a memory, the organisation should take up such issues as trade relations, technology transfer and reforming education in the Third World.

Moussa said most members now embrace capitalism and liberal democracy. He recommended that they abandon their confrontational style and persuade industrialised nations to invest in their economies.

"It is up to the Third World to prove that its countries are serious partners in international development," said Moussa, whose country has become a close ally of the United States.

"No changes can occur, even in Eastern Europe, without changes in the Third World. Stability and the so-called new world order cannot materialise without serious dealings" with the poor countries.

Ambassador Michael Okeyo of Kenya said developing nations are ready to acknowledge Washington has won the economic and political debate with Moscow, but he does not feel they should abandon activism.

"The United States stands the risk ... of being arrogant and careless," he said "and that is where the Non-Aligned Movement comes in."

Okeyo pointed out that its members contain most of the world's people, and said: "You have the obligation to listen to what the majority thinks."

Mark Franz said the movement can accomplish much if "channeled and reformed by some of (its) more reform-minded ele-

ments ... but I think it's going to continue to be run by the people who have always run it."

Franz is director of research for the International Freedom Foundation, a conservative American think tank.

The U.S. diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he saw radical elements being isolated and the organisation being pulled towards the centre, but reserved judgment of its future.

"The Non-aligned movement's in a bad way because they don't have a clear goal," he said "It seems to me they would be better off if they were for something, but they have to decide what they're for."

Relations with the United States always have been stormy. John Foster Dulles, who had been secretary of state in the late 1950s, said it was immoral not to differentiate between U.S. and Soviet methods and goals.

Support by the Non-Aligned Movement for the Palestine Liberation Organisation and South African guerrillas increased Washington's animosity, as did the membership of Angola, Cuba, North Korea and Vietnam.

At the United Nations, the movement favoured economic and political proposals that were at odds with U.S. support for a free market.

For an organisation that holds a formal conference only once every three years, the United Nations became the most active forum. There also was the practical consideration that the votes of small and poor countries count equally with those of the rich in the budget-making General Assembly.

Voting as a bloc, its 103 members have been able to carry the 159-nation assembly easily, particularly with the frequent support of the Soviet Union and its allies.

They have much less influence in the 15-member Security Council, which sets policy and is dominated by the five members with veto power: the United States, Soviet Union, China, Britain and France.

Communist Cuba was the only Latin American nation among the Non-Aligned movement's founding members. As chairman in 1979-1982, it had a great influence on the group's public statements.

President Fidel Castro noted his international stature as head of the organisation in a 1979 speech to the U.N. General Assembly. In it, he called the United States a collaborator of South Africa's apartheid government, supporter of Israeli aggression and perpetrator of Puerto Rico's "colonial status."

Such rhetorical flourishes have been a staple of the movement, but a tempering was evident at the most recent summit, in 1989 at Belgrade, Yugoslavia, the site of its founding.

Moderates led by Yugoslavia, the current chairman, obtained closing resolutions that gave unprecedented attention to economic issues.

Hard-liners got their customary references to "the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, apartheid and all forms of domination" but PLO chairman Yasser Arafat was unable to add a condemnation of Zionism.

Where is the devil?

By Abdul Rahim Malhas

WHEN people freely choose to forsake their rights, they ought not be surprised at the unpleasant outcome of their negative attitude. This is exactly what happened when nearly half of the Jordanian people abandoned their right to voting in the last parliamentary election: of November 1989. That resulted in a group of people, who do not represent more than one quarter of Jordanians reaching Parliament and then decision-making positions.

This group of people has recently started exercising its right by applying its own concepts and ideas on the rest of the silent majority which chose to continue to shun its right even the right to criticise ministerial decisions that can only cause dismay, consternation and sadness.

One or two cabinet ministers have lately passed administrative decisions designed to separate men from women in departments under their jurisdiction. Although these decisions seem to be alien to the spirit of modern Jordanian administration and the Jordanian people at large, such measure could be understood within the framework of the ministers' own belief that whenever a man meets a woman the devil is their companion. Therefore, it is quiet logical that men and women be separated in offices and schools so as to foil Satan's sinister designs. By doing so, the ministers believe they appease God and fulfil the requirements of faith and contribute to the organisation and purification of the universe — a duty required from every faithful Muslim. Such practice that seems to be dedicated to win God's blessing and fulfil the requirement of the Islamic faith can be viewed differently from the psychological point of view because psychology

tends to interpret man's behaviour on the strength of his internal motives; especially those motives related to a man-women relationship.

Man's chauvinistic drive, however, fed by hereditary culture, materialises in different ways to remind women of man's superiority. This drive manifests itself under the pretence of providing protection to the woman (the innocent lamb) from the man (the wolf). However, these decisions are only a means to help the male to deal with his psychological complexes, his hidden fear that women might shatter man's image of himself. Looking at these practices from a political point of view, one can still find another interpretation that is much closer to the truth.

Decisions like these are more acceptable to the man in the street because they insinuate a genuine interest on behalf of ministers to protect women's honour, especially those who are forced to work alongside men. Such decisions get also accepted by the ordinary man because they make him feel his woman will be safe even when she is working away from his direct control. What makes these decisions attractive is their scent of purity that attract male voters who prefer to maintain man's superiority over women in every domain. It is not strange then to look at such decisions could be part of decisions as means to attract men to vote in favour of these ministers in the next election.

However, let us suppose that the real objectives behind the honourable ministers' recent decisions were to chase Satan out from the workplace, and let us consider that the decisions were taken in order to acquire God's blessings and to provide protection to the women and improve adminis-

trative performances. But few questions remain. Will Satan stop his dirty games after segregation? Can't he use the telephone, for example? Can't he operate behind the ministries and the school borders? Will he always operate whenever a male meets a female even if the female was a little child? Or will he give up in despair?

If the objective is to chase the devil out and rid people of their evil temptations why not issue other resolutions to rid us of the most dangerous devil that dwells whenever man and money meet and whenever man is given authority over others? Why should we concentrate on the women-devil alone? Do we believe that men are capable of chasing away the money-devils by themselves while the women-devil requires ministerial decision? Have we, without noticing it, reached the sublime level of purity except for the single duty of chasing away the women-devil?

The question of chasing away the devil, as a means of ridding people of their temptations and purging the society, is a philosophical hypothesis with deep-rooted religious and ethical meaning that can by no means be solved by ministerial decisions. When Satan outraged God, He evicted him from Paradise for his disobedience and corruption. Despite God's rage the devil did not simply vanish. Instead, and with God's consent, the devil descended on Earth and has since been pursuing his wickedness. God, for his part, did not stop the devil from his evil doings on Earth. Had He wanted to, He would not have left him wandering around for a fleeting moment. God has instead kept Satan on Earth in order to allow his temptations to work on people so that the bad can be discerned from the good. Those who by their

willpower and with their sheer senses refrain from succumbing to the devil's temptations are the good, but those who weaken before the devil's temptations are the bad and God alone has the right to evaluate people's actions and to impose retributions on the bad. Therefore, chasing away the devil from any place can by no means put an end to his actions.

The whole question cannot be solved by chasing away Satan from the ministries, but rather through man's sound handling of the devil and his sexual, material and other temptations within rooms and outside departments. Purity can only be achieved when man can overcome the devil and not by running away from him.

The real problem is that the devil does not exist in ministries and school yards alone, but lingers in our own souls. Therefore, all the ministerial decisions and communiques can by no means evict the devil from his lair, and can never help to achieve that goal because ministers' communiques do not reach the conscience of man.

The major question, however, lies with the silent majority of the Jordanian society which is not expected to exercise its right of criticism or voting in the next general elections. In this case totalitarian rule based on ideological beliefs is bound to flourish under the banner of "democracy" and the ministries are bound to become a forums for the application of ideology, for propagating campaigns instead of managing the affairs of citizens or dealing with their problems.

Mr. Malhas is a surgeon and regular commentator on social issues. This article is translated from Arabic.

Searching for alternatives

By Abdullah Hassanat

IF anything the Muslim Brotherhood ministers and the movement in general must be credited for starting a heated debate in society with their quest for segregation of men and women.

At the Ministry of Social Development, Minister Yousef Al Athem, a Brotherhood deputy from Ma'an, started by separating men from women at the workplace in the ministry and its various departments.

Meanwhile, Dr. Abdullah Akayleh, the Brotherhood's minister of education and Tafleleh deputy, ordained that fathers will no more be able to see their daughters performing at the schools' playgrounds. Both were administrative decisions that fall under the authority of the respective ministers.

And Jordanian seculars, a rare breed in the true sense of secularism and a minority are up in arms. They see in the Brotherhood ministers' decisions the beginnings of a conservative trend that might turn the Jordanian society into one resembling Saudi Arabia or Iran. After all, the Brotherhood is not hiding their intentions. They are determined to turn Jordan into a "virtuous" society by covering women altogether, by banning banks' interest rates and by prohibiting alcohol. Their vision is based on their slogan, Islam is

the solution. That slogan, through the apathy of Jordanian seculars, ushered the Brotherhood into parliament with a substantial share of Lower House seats.

They are benefitting from the game of democracy and an article in the constitution which stipulates that Islam is the religion of the state.

As far as the rules are concerned they are playing the game right. Seculars, however, are indignant. They fear the Brotherhood, if successful in their drive, would take the society back into the "dark ages." The seculars argue that the Brotherhood is engaged in the pursuit of petty matters and that the country is facing a tremendous economic and political problems that require immediate handling and as such deserve priority.

The Brotherhood, however, believes a virtuous society is a prelude to curing all the society's ills. And while the Brotherhood bases its arguments on the Holy Koran and the Sunna, the seculars, unable to outwit the Islamists in the teachings of Islam, are also unable to provide alternatives. They can only use whatever arguments of Islamic tolerance to defend their point of view. Not only are the seculars handicapped by their ignorance of Islam. They are stained with their failure for 40 years to deliver the Arab masses out of their misery. Most notably the

seculars lack an alternative to Islamic ideology. Nationalists in particular have nothing to show in terms of achievement.

For 40 years it was the nationalists and the seculars in the Arab World who led the transformation of their societies from rural, primitive and simple societies into backward, oppressive, ignorant and corrupt bureaucracies and fiefdoms. Whatever seculars boast of as an achievement, they themselves on other occasions bemoan as failures.

A prime example of this is education. True that schools and universities turn out millions of "educated" people, but equally true is that inspite of millions of graduates, the Arab societies' ills have only been compounded. The man in the street and the most learned agree that education in the Arab World is not delivering the Arabs out of their backwardness and wretchedness.

Another example is the economy. Despite an enormous wealth of resources, and after 40 years of "secular" rule, Arab economies are in bad shape. Billions of petrodollars were plundered or wasted in building infrastructures that cannot stand the test of time. Tales of corruption abound. They touch even the untouchables. But still, the most striking example of failure is in the military. Astronomical funds were spent on armies that have so far failed to win any battle

against enemies of the Arabs. Incidentally, most of these armies in fact were not assembled and fattened to protect the nation against external threats, but rather to protect and ensure the supremacy of the regimes.

The system, including the clergy who stood behind it, failed miserably. The masses no longer believe in the status quo. They want change, and the only change they seem to trust is that of Islam. The seculars in Jordan can bang their heads against the wall, but that will change nothing. An alternative to the Muslim Brotherhood's ideology is a must, if only for the sake of pluralism and of continued debate. That alternative will only emerge following an intense, frank and sincere search for identity, purpose and new realism.

The task that faces Jordanian seculars is indeed awesome when compared to the challenge faced by the other side.

Whatever the end result, there is no alternative to the democratic way. In a democracy, seculars and others like-minded groups might not always win, but at least the chance is there for them to go to the polls.

The writer is a member of the Jordan Times editorial staff.

24 face death in Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

human rights organisation Amnesty International were in court as observers.

Their presence underlined growing concern in the West over accusations of human rights violations in Kuwait. They heard a Kuwaiti woman, Ibrahim Al Dakhil, say she had only worked for Al Nida because the Iraqis "threatened to abduct my two daughters and rape them."

Jordanian Abdul Rahman Al Hussein, who said he was suffering from a psychological ailment, told the court fearfully that he worked for Al Nida out of fear.

Al Nida first appeared in Kuwait in mid-August last year. It ceased to publish during the first week of January.

The six women defendants wore black chadors as a sign of respect for the court, which was specially convened to deal with cases of alleged collaboration. There is no right of appeal.

The six sat in a back row with several male defendants for whom there was no room in the accused's barred cage. They covered their faces from the cameras of newsmen as armed guards, wearing camouflaged combat fatigues, stood over them.

Two of the women were shaking in tears. Their crying continued as newsmen pressed for more photos and television footage.

But later they appeared relaxed, chatting and even smiling at each other as the proceedings opened. In the first trial, five Iraqis were found guilty and given jail terms of up to 15 years. Four people were acquitted. The issue was pulled off the market.

Judge Mohammad Ben Naji gently questioned each defendant on the nature of the work they had done, how long they stayed and what they were paid.

He repeatedly pounded his gavel when he could not hear, at one point threatening to clear the courtroom. Al Nida propagated the view that Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah was a puppet of the West and Kuwait should be an Iraqi province.

"The newspaper was insulting the regime all the time," Mr. Saif said. Kuwaitis say privately that the judges might hesitate to be lenient with anyone involved in slandering the Al Sabah name.

Al Nida was filled with stories about alleged corruption under the

rule of the sheikh, who was always referred to as "Croesus," the Biblical king of legendary wealth.

Presided over by three civilian and two military judges, the court's sentence are subject to review by the martial-law governor, Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Sabah.

Martial law has been in force since Kuwait was liberated on Feb. 26.

The defendants ranged from the editor-in-chief of Al Nida, Ahmad Faddy Al Hussein, to reporters, translators and janitors. Mr. Hussein is being tried in absentia after fleeing the country.

Before the war, most of the defendants had worked at Kuwaiti news organisations or the Information Ministry.

They are charged with giving information to a foreign country, putting themselves in service of the Iraqi regime, helping to publish misleading articles and photographs, helping the Iraqis weaken the morale of the Kuwaiti people and receiving salaries and other material benefits from the Iraqis.

Defence lawyers said conviction on any of the counts could be punished by death by hanging.

One defence attorney, Imad Al Saif, said the court should reopen the investigation because the probe that led to the charges was questionable. Some of the accused said they had never worked on Al Nida.

"There was a pipe near the newspaper that was leaking. It was a government pipe and needed welding so I welded it. I didn't go inside the grounds at all," said Jordanian Bassem Ramez Al Haji.

Others said they had tried to sabotage the propaganda in the paper. Fawaz Bassou, a Palestinian without a passport, said he did his job checking grammar and spelling out of fear.

Mr. Bassou said his one act of defiance was to insert a paragraph taken from Time magazine in the Dec. 25, 1990, issue saying young Kuwaiti men were training to regain their country.

France, whose troops were part of the anti-Iraq alliance, said Tuesday it is concerned about the treatment of Palestinians now facing collaboration charges there.

"We are worried about what is happening in Kuwait," Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard told a news conference. "We hope the trials will be carried out with respect for human rights."

Mujahedeen-e-Khalq — waiting on the wings

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ON A VAST desolate desert plain about 140 kilometres northeast of Baghdad is one of the veteran "liberation" movements around the world. And it is only 130 kilometres from the border of the land it wants to "liberate" — Iran.

The sprawling 600-square-kilometre base of Mujahedeen-e-Khalq (People's Warriors), the main Iranian opposition group which traces its origins to 1964, is a statelet of its own. It has its own roads and traffic rules — including speed limits and one-way lanes — power and water supply systems, prefabricated houses, barracks, operation rooms, training fields with tanks, missile launchers, armoured personnel carriers and an assortment of hundreds of different types of well-maintained vehicles and communication equipment. They also beam almost round-the-clock transmission to Iranians from their "Radio Mujahed" on "developments and news from within Iran."

Surprisingly, the base escaped unscathed during the intense allied bombing of Iraq in January and February. "Obviously the Americans knew who we were," commented a Mujahedeen official in private.

A casual drive through the well-paved, tree-lined roads of the base, off the main Baghdad-Mosul Highway near the town of Khalis, and a "familiarisation" swing through its training grounds and fully airconditioned facilities followed by a rich lunch served in Western style inevitably raise one question: Where is the money coming from to support such a well-oiled, spic and span operation?

"We receive small donations from individuals and families from all over Iran," explains Hussein Abrishakhi, acting commander of the base, which, technically, belongs to the National Liberation Army (NLA) — the military wing of the Mujahedeen.

"In addition, we have financial investments abroad," said the commander as a handful of foreign journalists settled down in a well-furnished living room at the outset of the visit to the base, on the eve of the 40th day after a battle between Iranian Revolutionary Guards and Mujahedeen fighters inside "Iraqi territory." (Iran has denied the encounter took place within Iraq and instead countercharged that Mujahedeen fighters attacked Iranian army bases within Iranian territory).

Mr. Abrishakhi himself and many others in the base say they were prisoners in Iran before and after the Islamic revolution which toppled Shah Reza Pahlavi. Most of them escaped across the border to Iraq and joined their colleagues in the NLA.

Essentially, the Mujahedeen represent Iranians who fell out with the powerful clergymen of Iran after joining hands with them to end the monarchy. In

fact, the rebels assert that they played the major role in the revolution, but were victimised by the clergy who assumed power.

The group is led by Massoud Rajavi, who fled Iran to France along with President Abol Hassan Bani Sadr — who fell out of favour with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini — in June 1981. Mr. Rajavi and Mr. Bani-Sadr split over differences in approach to the Iran-Iraq war and the Mujahedeen shifted their headquarters to Iraq following an improvement in relations between Tehran and Paris, which, apparently bowing to Iranian pressure, ordered the group out.

The group kept a very low profile in Iraq following the Baghdad-Tehran agreement in mid-August 1990 to make peace and formally end the war. But, by their own admission, they reemerged with a stronger card when Iran allegedly meddled in the internal Iraqi rebellion in the south and used its cover to attack NLA bases within Iraq.

"The mullahs of Tehran gave themselves away on a silver platter," said a Mujahedeen official. "We have been saying that they will never enter any final peace agreement with Iraq as long as it is not a pro-Iranian regime that holds power in Baghdad. By instigating and taking part in the Iraqi unrest they have exposed themselves and proved us right."

"Peace is the basis"

"Peace in the region is the basis of our relationship with the Iraqi government," the official said. "The Iraqis understand it very well, and they have now clearly realised the real intentions of the Khomeini regime," he added. He rejected suggestions that Mujahedeen leader Rajavi and his wife Marjan had left Iraq. "They are very much in Iraq," he said. "But Mr. Rajavi rarely gives press interviews, but appears at all major Mujahedeen and NLA functions."

Mr. Rajavi was not present at this particular day's ceremony 10 days ago to honour 43 Mujahedeen fighters killed in the April 1 battle between Revolutionary Guards and NLA fighters. The ceremony included a full fall-in parade of about 1,600 members of the NLA — about one third of them women — in smart uniforms (strangely, none wore any insignia indicating ranks), laying wreaths at a cemetery containing 40 marble-topped tombs (and a central monument for the other three whose remains were taken by the Iranian army, according to an NLA officer said), and a 21-gun salute to honour the "martyrs" followed by a solemn Iranian national song in Farsi.

The ceremony was over, and the assembly disbanded. The journalists were taken to another part of the base, where six teenagers who identified themselves as Revolutionary

Guards captured by the Mujahedeen on April 1 were presented to them.

"You can ask the prisoners any questions you want," the journalists were told.

"Our impression of the Mujahedeen has undergone a 180 degree change," said one of the six prisoners, answering a question through an interpreter. "There is a huge propaganda war against the Mujahedeen in Iran," he added in Farsi while the others nodded in unison.

What will happen to the prisoners? "They will be detained for some time before being given a choice to join us. If they do not then we will release them across the border," explained an elegantly dressed Mujahedeen press officer.

The prisoners related how they were ordered across the border into Iraq to attack the Mujahedeen and how they were defeated and captured. They said there were treated well by the captors.

Are there any more prisoners? The journalists asked the Mujahedeen.

"Not from the latest operation," came the reply.

Then it was time for a briefing at a conference hall on the actual battle. With help from meticulously marked maps and coloured symbols, and NLA officers presented the rebels' version of how the Iranian guards first launched an attack under cover of the internal unrest in Iraq in March and how the Mujahedeen countered, it before a second operation on April 1. Over 1,500 Iranian soldiers were killed and hundreds of others were wounded in the operation, NLA commanders said.

They denied reports that NLA fighters joined the Iraqi army in countering Iranian-backed Iraqi rebels during the unrest in March. Instead, Parviz Karimian, an operation officer of an NLA unit, accused Iraqi Kurdish rebels of attacking NLA fighters and handing over at least two captured guerrillas to Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

Also presented to the press at the briefing was "Afsane," commander of the base, which the Mujahedeen call "Axis 3," and a member of the Supreme Council of National Iranian Resistance. The introduction was unnecessary if its objective was to underline the prominence of women in the Mujahedeen movement since at least half of around 50 NLA fighters training outside the conference hall on anti-aircraft guns, British Chieftain tanks, APCs and multiple rocket launchers were young females.

Mahin Natif, 29, who handles a Chieftain tank with the ease with which a six-year-old pedals a bicycle, said she was detained for six years in 1982 in Tehran's Evin prison for supporting the Mujahedeen. She was released in 1988 and she crossed the border to Iraq and joined the NLA camp. She says she took an active part in the latest operation against the Iranian army. "It was the first time I came face to face with



Above a female tank commander takes position and below the Mujahedeen armour is kept ready for the big battle (Photos by P.V. Vivekanand)



"my tormentors with a gun in my hands," she said. "I was thrilled."

Similar stories came from most of the male and female NLA fighters, whose common enemy against the theocratic regime in Tehran binds them together.

"Every one of them is a volunteer and no one gets any salary," said the Mujahedeen press officer, Farid Sulaimani. The next part of call was Radio Mujahed transmission facilities. Two engineers there made a brief presentation of the technical details while another changed spools around among at least five or six tape machines.

"This facility beams to listeners in central Iran and mostly the Tehran area," said

one of the engineers. "We have other similar facilities elsewhere in Iraq to cover other Iranian areas," he said.

Does the Iranian regime try to jam the broadcast?

"Of course they do, but we have ways of circumventing the jamming," said the beaming engineer.

That it was time for lunch and a choice for those who wanted to go back to Baghdad or proceed to another NLA base, closer to the border but a two-hour drive away. Most journalists opted to return to the capital, but this reporter stayed on.

But bad news came soon. "The Khomeini regime has started shelling the border base," said Mr. Sulaimani.

"We can't travel there today. Perhaps another time, yes?"

The obvious suspicion was indeed that the Mujahedeen were a little disappointed with the choice of all other journalists not to proceed further and that they felt it was not worth while taking a sole pressman up over the mountains. Well, one would never know what the real reason was.

But a compensation was an "exclusive interview" with the head of the Mujahedeen's political department. The encounter went well, and then it was time to leave.

"Well, we hope to host you again, this time in Tehran," were Sulaimani's parting words as he waved goodbye.

Yemen urges Arabs to learn

(Continued from page 1)

the area.

Mr. Saleh, 49, said Yemen would "not regret" its peaceful position on the crisis, which he said had cost it \$3 billion in the loss of remittances, soft loans, grants and financial facilities.

But he said Sanaa had not expected to be punished after abiding by the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq.

"We did not expect to receive any reward but also we did not expect to be punished for our policy," he said.

However the return of Yemeni workers had been foreseen as a likely event if there were ever misunderstandings in Yemen's relations with its neighbours, Mr.

Saleh said.

"We did not like that they had returned, especially at this time, but of course circumstances obliged them to do so and we welcome them. They have returned to their homeland, among their kinfolk and tribes," he said.

Mr. Saleh said most but not all of Yemen's aid from GCC members Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain had been frozen.

"We are seeking now to restore relations with all the Gulf states and Arab countries — this is our policy. From our side there is no problem in relations with Saudi Arabia... we hope that they will be good," he said.

Israel vows more settlements

(Continued from page 1)

"I wouldn't wonder if the Americans are using the Israeli settlement in order to say to the Arabs 'you see you are not coming to negotiate and look what is happening'."

Mr. Baker said Monday he would return to the Middle East "if there was a reason to go back," but he had no such plans.

Mr. Baker, who has made four trips in two months to try to set up Arab-Israeli peace talks, told reporters: "I don't have any plans, as we stand here today, to go back... if there's a reason to go back I would, of

course, be willing to go back." He was talking to reporters after talks with his British counterpart Douglas Hogg.

There had been speculation Mr. Baker would spend the days between forthcoming meetings in Lisbon and Copenhagen on a fifth peace mission to the Middle East.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Mr. Baker would travel to Lisbon on May 30 to attend the signing of a peace agreement to end 16 years of civil war in Angola, and attend a NATO foreign ministers' meeting in Copenhagen the following week.

Iraqi oil

(Continued from page 1)

date of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait — had been frozen.

Iraq said it had a "small quantity of foreign currency, and it is earmarked for the purposes of facilitating certain aspects of cash expenditure which are extremely necessary in order to maintain, at a minimum level, Iraq's continued contact with the rest of the world and the movement of its representatives."

This foreign currency could not be used for international payments for regular trade in goods, first because of the small amount, and also because there were no transactions in cash at the international level, given that payments were now made by wire and by automated and electronic means, the letter added.

Iraq said it retained "a small quantity of monetary gold" but could not dispose of it "because of the grave repercussions that might ensue for the national economy and out of a concern to make use of it as a nucleus for the reconstitution of the secure reserve required to restore convertibility to the Iraqi dinar, even if within confined limits at the outset."

"This quantity of gold was, in its entirety, purchased more than 20 years ago," the Iraqi letter said.

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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1991 7

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close May 20/5/91	Tokyo Close May 21/5/91
Sterling Pound	1.7170	1.7155
Deutsche Mark	1.7320	1.7310
Swiss Franc	1.4620	1.4614
French Franc	5.5690	5.5735
Japanese Yen	136.50	136.15
European Currency Unit	1.1870	1.1870

USD Per STG
European Opening at 8:30 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 21/5/1991

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.67	5.93	6.06	6.50
Sterling Pound	11.87	11.50	11.25	11.00
Deutsche Mark	5.75	6.93	9.00	9.06
Swiss Franc	8.12	8.12	8.06	8.06
French Franc	9.00	9.00	9.06	9.06
Japanese Yen	7.64	7.66	7.56	7.45
European Currency Unit	9.75	9.46	9.56	9.43

Interbank bid rates for overnight borrowing 1% U.S. Dollar 1,000,000 or equivalent

Precious Metals Date: 21/5/1991

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	356.80	6.65	Silver	4.05	.087

31 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 21/5/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.681	.683
Sterling Pound	1.1683	1.1741
Deutsche Mark	.3933	.3953
Swiss Franc	.4656	.4661
French Franc	.1160	.1166
Japanese Yen	.4919	.4944
Dutch Guilder	.3493	.3510
Swedish Krona	.1096	.1103
Italian Lira	.0530	.0533
Belgian Franc	.01959	.01949

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 21/5/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7400	1.7550
Lebanese Lira	.074	.076
Saudi Riyal	.1813	.1822
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1831	.1840
Egyptian Pound	.1950	.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7250	1.7400
UAE Dirham	.1831	.1840
Greek Drachma	.3450	.3550
Cypriot Pound	1.4200	1.4400

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market Date: 21/5/1991

Index	19/5/1991 Close	20/5/1991 Close
All-Share	114.17	114.49
Banking Sector	110.71	110.94
Insurance Sector	112.56	112.56
Industry Sector	118.26	118.45
Services Sector	125.44	127.91

* December 31, 1990 = 100

U.S. regulators approve limited after hours trading on NYSE

WASHINGTON (R) — In a bid to help U.S. stock markets beat back growing competition from Tokyo and London, government regulators Monday approved limited after-hours trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), the biggest in the United States.

The measures, approved by a 4-1 vote of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), are the first in what could become a 24-hour market in stocks. The measures will run for a two-year trial period.

The proposals are aimed at attracting back some of the institutional investors who manage billion-dollar portfolios and use complex computerised trading programmes.

Now when U.S. markets close, these professionals use electronic screens or trade abroad.

Advances in telecommunications and a rise in the number of U.S. companies listing their stocks in foreign markets have made this quiet shift to global trading possible.

For the New York Stock Exchange, there has been a loss of trading — and revenues.

The exchange estimates that 15 per cent of all programme trading by its member firms last year was conducted overseas.

But some traders said the proposals would not help the NYSE gain back business lost overseas.

"I support them, but I'm sceptical of whether this in fact is going to boost market share," said the head of U.S. trading for a large Japanese brokerage. He said his firm would continue to conduct most of its overnight trading in Tokyo.

Under the plan, the NYSE can start two special trading sessions after the current 4 p.m. eastern time (2000 GMT) closing bell.

In one hour-long trading session, buy and sell orders can be executed at the closing price only. SEC staff said this would let investors adjust their portfolios once they have digested the day's activities.

The second session, lasting until 5:15 p.m. (2115 GMT), would be for computer-driven programme trades of at least 15 stocks worth \$1 million or more.

The Philadelphia Stock Exchange has submitted a similar plan to the SEC.

Noting the erosion of New York's dominance as the world financial centre, SEC Chairman Richard Breiden last year urged the stock exchanges to move towards 24-hour trading.

But the New York proposal has triggered fierce debate among regional stock exchanges, who say the special trading session would rob public investors of the chance to get a fair price and expose them to unscrupulous brokers.

First Islamic bank opens in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — The Al Baraka Islamic Bank of Algeria — the first of its kind in the country — opened Tuesday.

The new bank has been set up by the Algerian Rural Development Bank (BADR) and Al Baraka of Saudi Arabia. It has a one billion-dinar (\$125 million) capital base.

It will function in accordance with traditional Sharia or Islamic law which prohibits payment of interest.

"It is the first private Islamic bank to give Algerian Muslims the opportunity to live in accordance with their religion," Sheikh Salah Abdallah Kamel said.

French premier urges Europe to wake up to Japanese challenge

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister Edith Cresson has launched another attack on Japanese protectionism urging Europe to wake up to the challenge of Japan's conquering exports.

"Japan is another universe which wants to conquer... that's the way they are," she told French television TF-1.

In her second outburst against Japan since her appointment last Thursday, Cresson said Japan had taken over the world's photographic industry and destroyed America's car-making sector.

"We took it easy," she said. Cresson said Europe had to face up to competition and set up industrial alliances to salvage its electronics industry.

"If we depend on the Japanese for imports of electronic products, they will always be in a position not to sell them or to sell them at high prices," she said.

She accused Japanese industrialists of charging high prices on their domestic market in order to finance cheap exports.

Cresson resigned as European affairs minister eight months ago, accusing the French government of ignoring what she called a world trade war.

She repeated her ambition this week to boost the French economy to rival its German neighbour in the single European market opening up in 1993.

The 57-year-old premier gave few hints about what she plans to say in her first address to parliament Wednesday, but sought to play down her reputation as a tough left-winger.

"One rule more at the centre, than one rule wish to," she said. "One must compromise. We must not compromise when it is sensible."

A poll in the Sunday newspaper Journal du Dimanche said 70 per cent of the French had a good opinion of Cresson, the country's first woman prime minister.

Experts say Mideast bank will not solve economic woes

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A proposed development bank in the Middle East will not solve the area's economic disparity and growth problems, experts have told congressional committee.

Questions on which countries will participate; how much they will contribute and who will ultimately benefit from a Middle East regional bank were addressed by a round-table panel discussion organised by the Senate Foreign Relations Sub-committee on the Near East and South Asia.

Several panelists voiced doubts about the ultimate utility of a regional development bank in the Middle East in the context of solving problems of economic growth. The panelists agreed that aid alone is not the solution to the Middle East's economic problems and stressed that economic reform and attracting investment should be priority goals.

Secretary of State James Baker earlier this year outlined a reconstruction plan for the Middle East that included a regional development bank.

It is questionable that the oil-rich states, like Saudi Arabia, will be able to contribute the funds needed to make a regional bank in the Middle East viable, several panelists said.

The "impression that the Saudis would be a paymaster to the region's problems" stands on shaky ground, given the financial constraints Saudi Arabia now faces, a panelist said.

The Saudis "have run out of available foreign exchange reserves," he noted, adding that Saudi Arabia has become one of the "largest borrowers on the international market in the 1990s."

Another panelist echoed these points, saying "Saudi Arabia does not have the financial resources it once had...there are less funds to finance undertakings, including regional development efforts."

Kuwait and Iraq are also in no position to contribute to such a fund at present, he noted.

"Iraq's development has been set back by a decade," he said, adding that an estimated \$20,000 million will be needed in investment to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure. The costs of Kuwait's rebuilding efforts are estimated at \$50,000 million, he said.

While Saudi Arabia and Kuwait "will not have a great deal of resources to contribute to this effort," the Gulf Cooperation Council has committed itself to providing \$10,000 million for a development fund, another participant noted.

On a recent trip to the region, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady discussed possible uses of the GCC fund, including "using resources in conjunction with U.S. aid and World Bank resources that would lead to economic reform and restructuring," he said.

The participation of Israel could become "quite a barrier" to getting a regional development bank going, he noted.

A former ambassador stressed that the United States "should not support a bank without Israel."

Japan estimated top creditor nation in world last year

TOKYO (R) — Japan is estimated to have retained its position as the world's largest creditor nation in calendar 1990, the ministry of finance (MOF) announced Tuesday.

Japan's net overseas holdings — the balance between assets and debts it holds abroad — hit a record \$328.1 billion in public and private assets at the end of 1990, up 11.9 per cent from the previous year's record \$293.2 billion.

No credit/debt figures for other nations are available yet for the whole of 1990, a MOF official said.

Close on Japan's heels was the former West Germany, believed to have had assets close to Japan's \$328 billion by the end of 1990, the official said.

The United States had net external debt of \$663.7 billion at the end of 1989 against \$532.5 billion a year before. MOF data show. Figures for 1990 were not available.

Japan's overseas debts reached a record \$1.53 trillion at the end of 1990, gaining 3.5 per cent from \$1.48 trillion a year earlier.

But it was outpaced by the growth in its overseas assets, which grew an annual 4.9 per cent to hit a new high of \$1.86 trillion from \$1.77 trillion in 1989.

Japan boosted foreign assets mostly in direct investment and securities holdings by private companies.

Declines in the assets were seen in loans, which stemmed from tight credit by Japanese firms and increased collection of credits in that year, the MOF official said.

Japan has been the top creditor nations since 1985, when it had net foreign assets of \$129 billion.

Senior CBJ official highlights relations between Jordan, EC

AMMAN (J.T.) — Central Bank of Jordan Deputy Governor Michel Marto warmly welcomed any steps to improve and expand EC-Jordanian cooperation. He said he was particularly pleased to see the growth of new European institutions designed to encourage investment, joint ventures and technology transfer between European and the rest of the world. In an interview for the European Community (EC) news letter published in Jordan, he talked about the benefits that such enhanced cooperation could bring to both sides.

Jordan's current cooperation with the Community is excellent, said Dr. Marto. Three economic, financial and technical protocols providing a total of ECU 203 million have been concluded since Jordan and the European Community signed their first cooperation agreement in Brussels in 1977. A fourth protocol is under discussion.

Jordan also appreciated the timely aid provided by both the EC and its member countries during the Gulf crisis, said Dr. Marto.

Now, however, he would like to see new areas of cooperation developed with special emphasis going to investment, joint ventures and technology transfer in the private sector.

Dr. Marto hopes EC networks, including EC International Investment Partners and the Business Cooperation Centre (BCC) will offer excellent opportunities for Jordanian entrepreneurs and investors to benefit from the development that has made the EC a major industrial force and the world's largest trading bloc.

They stand to gain new technology and know-how, new skills in presentation and marketing and ultimately, access to wider markets.

Dr. Marto also believes that the benefits of enhanced cooperation would not be one-sided.

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Light arbitrage unwinding and small-lot sales pressured prices all day but bargain-hunting and some index-linked sales pushed the market back up. The Nikkei average closed down 41.62 points to 25,481.21.

SYDNEY — Shares closed higher in thin volume amid scattered support from local investors. The all ordinaries index closed up 4.5 points at 1,536.1.

HONG KONG — After six days of gains, the Hang Seng index plunged 87.21 points to 3,829.88 on unconfirmed rumours that Sing-British talks failed to reach a compromise on a new airport for Hong Kong.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed generally lower with operators unwilling to take fresh positions in the absence of positive leads from overseas. The Straits Times industrial index lost 4.23 points to end at 1,517.98.

BOMBAY — Prices finished strongly, buoyed by expectations of

of congress victory in elections. The Bombay Stock Exchange index shot up 36.29 points to 1,320.54.

FRANKFURT — The Dax index, bolstered by growing foreign confidence in Germany, climbed 18.53 points to 1,617.40.

ZURICH — Chemicals led the SPI index up 8.9 points to 1,088.5.

PARIS — The Bank of France dashed hopes of an early cut in interest, leaving rates unchanged at its weekly money market tender. Wall Street gains helped the CAC-40 index rise late in the day to close 6.13 points higher at 1,833.09.

LONDON — Utility stocks firmed but dealers said the FTSE index's 16.1 point gain to 2,482.7 looked fragile in otherwise thin trade.

NEW YORK — Buying continued in drug stocks but few other groups attracted interest. At 1602 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were up 26.36 to 2,918.8.

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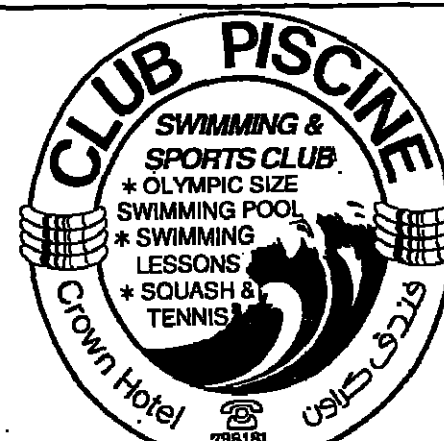
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De Klerk hopes to keep ANC in talks with weapons agreement

ANC says arms accord is inadequate

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (Agencies) — President F.W. De Klerk has reached an agreement with Zulu leaders on weapons that can clear the way for the African National Congress (ANC) to end its boycott of talks on ending white rule, officials said Tuesday.

Government officials, who declined to be named, said they expect tough restrictions on Zulu's carrying spears in black townships hit by unrest to be announced during the next few days.

The ANC said last week it would not take part in talks on the country's political future until the government met its ultimatum to end violence in black townships that has claimed hundreds of lives in recent months.

A key ANC demand is the banning of cultural weapons such as spears and axes carried by Zulus as an expression of their tribal identity and traditions. The township violence mostly pits ANC supporters against the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party.

To avert a confrontation with the ANC, De Klerk met Monday with Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi to urge Zulu leaders to

drop their opposition to limits on the carrying of spears in townships.

The two leaders said they agreed to take tougher steps to control weapons at public meetings. Government officials said they expect spears to be banned at political rallies and confined to Zulu cultural events.

"The Zulu leaders made a clear stand in favour of their cultural heritage, but were prepared to support the South African government in efforts to improve control of dangerous instruments in unrest areas," a joint statement said.

Earlier government bans on weapons in violence-hit townships have excluded Zulu spears.

Government and ANC officials indicated earlier that a ban on spears would probably break the deadlock over constitutional talks. Other ANC demands, such as dismissal of the government ministers in charge of security forces, could be compromised on, they said.

ANC officials said Tuesday they were studying the new development, but were unlikely to comment until the government re-

leased specific details. De Klerk said new regulations on weapons would be published shortly.

But South African newspapers reported Tuesday that a limit on spears may not be enough to resolve the crisis. The Star newspaper said ANC sources wanted stronger steps by the government to halt the violence.

No date has been set for the start of talks on ending white rule and sharing power with the black majority. De Klerk has said the talks could begin this year.

The ANC Tuesday criticised as inadequate the new weapons ban agreed between its Zulu rivals and the government.

About 25 religious leaders including Nobel Peace laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu met in Johannesburg to discuss ways of resolving the deadlock in ANC-government talks on a non-racial constitution.

The ANC pulled out of the negotiating process Saturday, saying De Klerk had failed to meet a May 9 deadline to act to halt township violence.

ANC Information Director Pallo Jordan said the new arms ban still not good enough.

"The issue has never been one of traditional weapons, it has been one of weapons," he told reporters, saying modern arms were the problem.

He said the ANC's policy-making National Executive Committee (NEC) would discuss whether the new weapons measure meant it should reconsider its boycott of a peace summit to be hosted by the government Friday and Saturday.

De Klerk called the summit to find ways of ending township violence that some researchers say has killed 1,800 people in the last nine months. Most fighting has pitted the ANC against Inkatha.

The South African Council of Churches (SACC), hosting the meeting of religious leaders, has said any peace meeting without the ANC would be meaningless.

An SACC spokesman said the group's Secretary General Frank Chikane would fly to Cape Town later Tuesday to tell De Klerk of the outcome of the church meeting.

Chikane met Buthelezi Monday and held talks with ANC executive member Thabo Mbeki Tuesday.



Hun Sen

Cambodia rejects Khmer Rouge ultimatum

BANGKOK (R) — Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen says a Khmer Rouge ultimatum that he accept a U.N. peace plan or face renewed fighting is proof the Maoist guerrillas have no intention of bringing peace to Cambodia through negotiations.

"I deeply regret hearing such war-mongering and arrogant language that has shaken the hope of the entire Cambodian people and the international community for the beginning of the restoration of peace in Cambodia," Hun Sen said in a statement read by an announcer on Phnom Penh Radio Monday night.

On Saturday, the Khmer Rouge, which has tried for a dozen years to unseat Cambodia's Vietnam-installed government, told Phnom Penh to accept the U.N. plan by June 3 and implied that a shaky ceasefire in force in Cambodia since May 1 would collapse if Phnom Penh failed to act.

The two sides are due to meet in Jakarta in the first days of June to discuss the U.N. plan.

"Together with the international community, we hope that the voluntary ceasefire, despite the belligerence of the Khmer Rouge, can be maintained beyond the forthcoming Jakarta meeting and until the signing of a global political solution," Hun Sen said.

The plan, drafted by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, calls for U.N. administrators virtually to run the country in a period of disarmament leading to elections.

Phnom Penh has refused to accept the plan because it fears disarmament may be erratically enforced and lead to a return to power by the Khmer Rouge, under whose rule in the late 1970s a million Cambodians died.

The Khmer Rouge and its two smaller, non-communist allied factions have accepted the plan. "We must be wary of the tricky and hypocritical Khmer Rouge," Hun Sen said. "They have acted as if they are so respectful of the U.N. and human rights and have accepted all decisions made by the big five."

"But this tactic can mislead no one. In fact, the Khmer Rouge have already made up their minds never to respect the terms of the accord and find in our reserve an excuse to sabotage the peace plan and then blame us for their own insincerity."

He said the Khmer Rouge ultimatum showed the guerrilla group had "no intention whatsoever of settling the Cambodian problem through negotiations or of ending the fratricidal war."

The 40-year-old prime minister called for neutral foreign observers to supervise the present ceasefire, which each side accuses the other of violating.

India to boost security after vote fraud, violence

NEW DELHI (R) — Authorities Tuesday invalidated elections for five parliament seats after an explosion of violence and vote fraud in the first stage of India's general election.

The order by Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan meant the election process must start over in five of the 204 constituencies that were at stake in Monday's voting.

Voting continues Thursday and Sunday. First results will be announced on May 27 for the 543-seat member house.

At least 55 people were killed in violence that rocked nearly all nine states and four federally ruled territories where elections were held. The toll included two people killed Tuesday morning.

Election officials said the five constituencies where the vote was invalidated encompassed 4,000 to 5,000 polling stations. Fifteen contests for state assembly seats in same areas also will start over.

The invalidated elections were in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the two most populous of India's 25 states and the key swing states that could decide the outcome of the election.

The two states are the main battle grounds for the Congress Party, the long-ruling party that is trying to stage a comeback from its 1989 defeat — the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party, and the Janata Dal Party of former Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

Of the deaths reported Monday, about 20 people were killed in the town of Meerut, 50 miles (80 kilometres) northeast of New Delhi when an argument between a Hindu and a Muslim candidate became a riot between members of the two religions.

Balloting will take place again in several hundred polling stations outside the five constituencies.

That means a party — or a coalition of parties — will need 252 seats to immediately form majority government.

Pre-election opinion polls have said the Congress Party of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi will emerge the strongest of the three major groups in the race but will fall short of a majority.

Yeltsin strikes conciliatory note at start of congress

MOSCOW (R) — Russian leader Boris Yeltsin struck a conciliatory note Tuesday at the start of a legislative congress designed to introduce an elected, executive presidency in the biggest Soviet Republic.

Yeltsin, main political rival of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, praised the central government for moving towards a partnership with the 15 constituent republics and accepting the idea of a market economy.

"Changes are taking place and not only in Russia," he told the 1,000-strong Congress of People's Deputies.

"Other republics are moving in the same direction. The centre has started to understand this and shifted from confrontation to cooperation."

He cited the landmark "nine-plus-one" agreement signed by Gorbachev and the leaders of nine republics on April 23, which implicitly recognised increased autonomy for the republics. Yeltsin, for his part, backed the Soviet president's economic recovery programme and supported calls for an end to strikes.

Yeltsin has pushed the executive presidency idea to give him a solid powerbase in his rivalry with Gorbachev, who retains the leadership of the still powerful Communist Party.

The blunt Siberian is widely seen as the front-runner in elections for the post, due to be held — if the congress approves — on June 12. He would become the first ever Russian Republic leader to be elected in Soviet history.

The Communists, supporting former Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov and former Interior

Minister Vadim Bakatin, have said they will try to have the polls postponed for three months and push for other changes in the election rules.

But the first step towards a June 12 vote, approval of the agenda, passed smoothly.

Yeltsin was elected to his current post, officially chairman of the presidium of the Russian parliament, by the congress deputies a year ago.

To be chosen Russian president directly by the republic's 150 million voters would give him a certain moral ascendancy over Gorbachev, who was chosen president by the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies.

Yeltsin Tuesday stressed the importance of introducing the new post. "The presidency is not a goal in itself. It is a major step in strengthening power and statehood in Russia."

He appealed for a clean campaign with due respect paid to all candidates.

He concluded his speech by paying tribute to the late Andrei Sakharov, the dissident and scientist whose 70th birthday would have fallen Tuesday.

"We try to follow the way which was chosen by this great person," Yeltsin said. "If we were with us I think there would have been fewer losses, mistakes and zig-zags."

The Congress also stood in silence to honour the victims of recent clashes in Transcaucasia. Armenia says Soviet and Azeri troops killed at least 50 Armenians in the past few weeks, while rival Azerbaijan puts the death toll at around 20 and blames Armenian gunmen.



Queen knights Schwarzkopf

TAMPA, Florida (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth bestowed an honorary knighthood on Gulf war commander General Norman Schwarzkopf in a simple private ceremony, turning the war hero nicknamed "the bear" into a Knight Commander of the Bath. Since his title is honorary, Schwarzkopf does not become "Sir Norman," although soldiers at McDill Air Force Base privately said they have informally dubbed him "the duke of MacDill."

After sailing into Tampa Bay, the queen and Prince Philip held a "walkabout" at a downtown pedestrian esplanade and attended a reception at a local university. Eight-year-old Derek Franklin, dressed in his full scout regalia, summed up the royal visit as "neato." In a light rain, the royal entourage drove to MacDill, where the general greeted the queen and accompanied her up the seven steps into his central command headquarters for a tour of his "war room."

One-third of Argentines live in Buenos Aires

BUENOS AIRES (R) — One-third of Argentina's 32,370,298 inhabitants live in its capital Buenos Aires and its suburbs, according to early data of a national census released Monday. The National Statistics Bureau (Indec) said the latest census showed 10,884,381 people lived in metropolitan Buenos Aires.

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1,000 attend AIDS memorial

LONDON (AP) — Around 1,000 people attended a candlelit memorial for those whose lives have been blighted by AIDS, organisers said. The event in London's historic Trafalgar Square was organised by the Terence Higgins Trust, a charity working with AIDS sufferers.

"The memorial is very important given that many of the people who have died of AIDS are so young," Trust Chief Executive Naomi Wynne said in a statement. "It is important for their families, lovers and partners to know that they are not forgotten, that they did not die in vain."

The memorial is held annually. The trust says 2,500 Britons have died from AIDS. The event began with a service at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields on Trafalgar Square, organisers said. Many people cried and embraced as organisers read out the names of 600 who have died, including actor Rock Hudson and the musician Liberace. Participants observed a moment's silence for all the victims of AIDS.

Long live the king — but which one?

HONG KONG (R) — It was the sort of public slip that every head of state, politician, and senior official has nightmares about. The assembled guests fall silent, glasses are raised and the toast is... wrong. Hong Kong's usually urbane governor, Sir David Wilson, got in a right royal muddle this weekend, according to witnesses. Invited to respond to a toast for Britain's Queen Elizabeth at a reception to mark Norwegian national day Friday evening, he responded with a toast to "His Majesty, King Haakon the fifth," the witnesses said. The record books show Norway's King Haakon the seventh died in 1957, and was replaced by King Olav the fifth, who died this year to be replaced by King Harald the fifth.

Maureen O'Hara lured back to films

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Maureen O'Hara says it took a feisty, charming character to lure her back to the big screen after a 20-year absence. O'Hara, 71, is reunited with Anthony Quinn in Only The Lonely, in which she portrays a widow who fends off his advances. "I like my character — she's feisty, bad-tempered, opinionated... but occasionally charming. She's really something of a female Archie Bunker," O'Hara said in an interview with the Tennesseean. O'Hara and Quinn's first screen romance was in 1942 in Black Swan. Her performance in Only The Lonely, which opens this week, has brought early talk of an Oscar nomination, something that eluded her in her three-decade career. "It really doesn't have to be an Oscar. Just a nomination will do," she said.

Rain delays Bangladesh relief efforts

DHAKA (R) — Heavy rains pounded Dhaka Tuesday, preventing a U.S. task force and relief agencies from sending planes with supplies to cyclone and flood victims in Bangladesh.

"I have never seen so much water in my life," said task force officer Allen Crawford as he alighted from one of the four U.S. C-130 transport aircraft at Dhaka Airport.

The plane had been scheduled to leave for a Chittagong Port

early in the morning but was still grounded three hours later.

"We cannot take off because visibility is very poor and there have been thunderstorms," Lieutenant Crawford said.

Weather officials said 50 mm (three inches) of rain fell on Dhaka over six hours Tuesday, submerging vast areas of the city of seven million people.

The U.S. task force of nearly 7,000 Marines arrived last

Wednesday, two weeks after Bangladesh's worst cyclone in 20 years killed more than 138,000 people on the coast and about a dozen islands in the Bay of Bengal.

The force, commanded by Major-General H.C. Stackpole, has ferried supplies to cyclone survivors, set up water purification plants and treated thousands of people suffering from diarrhoeal diseases.

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Stoph, 76, served as head of government after the death of then Communist leader Walter Ulbricht in August 1973 until 1976, when the East German government was re-organised under Honecker.

Kessler, 71, served as defence minister from 1985 until the fall of East Germany's hardline Communist government in the autumn of 1989.

Strelitz, 64, and Albrecht, 71, were top Communist officials serving with Stoph and Kessler as members of the National Defence Council when Honecker was in power.

4 former E. German leaders arrested

BERLIN (AP) — Four members of former East Germany's National Defence Council have been arrested, including ex-Premier Willi Stoph and ex-Defence Minister Heinz Kessler, the Berlin Justice Office said Tuesday.

In a statement to the news media, said the four were arrested over a period spanning late Monday and early Tuesday.

In addition to Stoph and Kessler, Lindhardt identified the other two former Communist officials as Fritz Strelitz and Hans Albrecht.

The four were arrested in connection with their duties on former East Germany's National Defence Council, the statement said.

The arrested men are under

investigation on suspicion of manslaughter in connection with shoot-to-kill orders issued in 1974 by former East German leader Erich Honecker.

According to the statement, the arrests were made because police had received a tip that Kessler was planning to flee the country.

Honecker was spirited away to Moscow by the Soviets on March 13. He is also wanted by Berlin justice officials in connection with the deaths of would-be escapees.

Limbach said that investigation thus far indicates that members of former East Germany's National Defence Council were jointly responsible "as decision makers," in issuing the shoot-to-kill orders.

Up to 200 people were killed

Support grows for overhauling the Italian political system

ROME (AP) — After 50 governments in 45 years, a growing chorus of Italian politicians is demanding the radical overhaul of a system blamed for poor public services, a huge national debt and growing mafia violence.

The loudest voices backing fundamental change in Italy's electoral, legislative and bureaucratic systems belong to Bettino Craxi, the former Socialist premier, and President Francesco Cossiga.

Italy has held together since World War II because the key political players are around for years, parties have enjoyed relatively stable constituencies and bureaucrats were secure in their jobs despite frequent changes at the top.

But the nation's patience seems to have worn thin.

The media has been hammering away at mafia murders more gruesome than ever and public debt that could hit \$120 billion this year.

Advocates of reforms argue that it is imperative if Italy is to keep pace with a fast-moving Europe, especially in view of the unified European Community market that is to arrive in 1993.

"I believe I'm interpreting the widespread sentiment of the peo-

ple, thoughtful and worried about the fate of our country, when I say: 'Enough, already,'" essayist Norberto Bobbio wrote in La Stampa, a Turin daily.

Voters long loyal to traditional parties have begun supporting regional parties. The new parties appeal to people fed up with a bureaucratic central government, poor public services and taxes they feel are wasted on the underdeveloped south, where organised crime is rampant.

The trend was confirmed in scattered local elections this month.

In the northern town of Valenza Po, a regional party, the Northern League, took 23.5 per cent of the vote. That was second only to the 27 per cent won by the Christian Democrats, who have dominated Italy since the war. Six years ago, the Northern League garnered only 2 per cent.

Cossiga, whose post as president is now largely ceremonial, has said it might be time for a new constitution. A French-style government, with a strong presidency, has been widely discussed.

Craxi has also been pushing for a strengthened presidency and has made no secret he would be

interested in the job.

The reform movement has been buoyed by results of nationwide telephone surveys. A survey done for the newsweekly Panorama found 71.1 per cent approval for the type of reform advocated by Cossiga. In another, for L'Espresso magazine, 57 per cent said the state and public administration would function better if the president were to have more powers or be elected by the people instead of by parliament as under the present system.

Among proposed reforms are the direct election of mayors, who are now chosen by party leaders, a reduction in the number of legislators, and a requirement that a party win at least 5 per cent of the vote to earn a seat in parliament.

Two of the four parties in Premier Giulio Andreotti's governing coalition — the Liberals and Social Democrats — would not be represented under such a formula.

Andreotti's previous coalition collapsed in March after the partners squabbled over how to bring about the reforms.

Italy's problems won't be easily solved.

Barton Fink wins top award at Cannes

CANNES, France (AP) — Barton Fink, a biting American comedy about Hollywood, won the Best-Film Award and two other top honours Monday night at the 44th annual Cannes Film Festival.

The 10-member jury, headed by director Roman Polanski, said Barton Fink was a unanimous choice for the prestigious Golden Palm.

It was the third straight Golden Palm for American films. David Lynch's Wild At Heart won last year, while Steven Soderbergh's Sex, Lies and Videotape won in 1989.

John Turturro won the Best-

Actor Prize for his portrayal of the title role in Barton Fink, a serious-minded New York playwright lured into a Hollywood screenwriting job in the 1940s.

Brothers Joel and Ethan Coen, who wrote, produced and directed Barton Fink, were honoured with the prize for Best Direction.

Irene Jacob of France won the Best Actress Award for her double role in the French-Polish production, The Double Life of Veronica, directed by Kazysztof Kieslowski of Poland.

In her first starring film role, Jacob, 24, plays two young women, a French music teacher

and a Polish singer, who are virtually identical and haunted by sense they have a counterpart elsewhere.

The Coen Brothers' three previous films were Blood Simple, Raising Arizona and Miller's Crossing, in which Turturro appeared.

Turturro was in a second well-received film at Cannes — Jungle Fever by Spike Lee.

A new award for Best Supporting Performance was given out this year, and went to another Jungle Fever cast member — Samuel L. Jackson, who plays a Harlem junkie.

U.K. leftist lawmaker seeks to abolish monarchy

LONDON (AP) — Legislator Tony Benn, a favourite of the British left, has put forward a bill to abolish the monarchy and the hereditary House of Lords: a would-be revolution in 54 clauses of dry parliamentary language.

The measure would give Britain a president and a House of the People composed equally of men and women and would end the Church of England's special status. It has scant chance of getting very far in the Conservative-dominated British parliament.

But the 66-year-old Benn is no quitter.

A reluctant aristocrat, he fought to get the law changed so he could disown the title he inherited in 1960 from his father, Lord Stansgate. With the title, he would have been forced into the Lords and barred from remaining in the House of Commons.

Three years later, the new act passed, he was back in the House of Commons as plain Mr. Benn.

"This one will take some time to mature," acknowledged Benn, an energy secretary in Britain's 1975-79 Labour Party government.

He presented his Common-wealth of Britain bill knowing it has little chance of even being debated on the floor of the

parliament.

But for Benn this is a new beginning.

He's spent five years working out his vision of a Britain without the pageantry, the titles, the honours and the 1,000-year-old monarchy.

Now he's embarked on the long road to campaign for his plan through meetings of leftists in chilly halls up and down the country, labour union rallies and endless correspondence.

Among the first on his mailing list was Buckingham Palace. Benn sent a draft of the bill round there early to catch Queen Elizabeth II before she left on her current tour of the United States.

"I got a very courteous acknowledgement," Benn told reporters at the Commons.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said of the bill, "we have no comment."

Benn's bill envisages the queen being forcibly retired. Her jewels, castles, yacht, paintings and other wealth that places her among the richest people in the world would be handed over to the state.

The monarch would get unspecified compensation, a pension, and her family would get accommodation "in such royal palaces

as may be determined by parliament."

Benn is used to being laughed at, derided by pro-Conservative newspapers as "loony left" and a failed revolutionary, and ignored by both the governing Conservative Party and the mainstream of his own Labour Party.

He narrowly missed becoming deputy leader of the Labour Party in 1981. But the left-wing has since been increasingly isolated as the party has shifted toward the centre and is now a serious challenger for power after a dozen years in opposition to Conservative Party governments.

Benn has battled on through it all.

There were his attempts to get U.S. troops expelled from Britain; a bill to enable workers to fire managers at a week's notice and, most recently, an attempt to condemn British participation in the Gulf war.

With his proposal to abolish the monarchy, Benn has another idea whose time has not come yet — although there are signs of waning royal popularity.

The most recent poll, by Market and Opinion Research International in February, indicated that 14 per cent of Britons thought the monarchy should be elimin-

ated — up from 6 per cent a year ago.

Central to Benn's plan is giving Britain its first written constitution and ending the status of the Church of England as the established church with the monarch as its temporal head. That stems from Henry VIII's break with the Vatican in the 16th century.

He would also abolish the House of Lords. In Benn's views, prime minister have reinforced their power with the patronage that comes from appointing peers and granting titles.

The only part of his bill that comes near to official Labour policy concerns the Lords.

Labour is pledged to put an elected chamber in place of the unelected upper house of parliament, whose powers have steadily been whittled down over the years to the point where the Lords can only delay some bills from passage.

"We are a very, very undemocratic society," said Benn. "What is wrong is wrong at the top... this is a society where privilege is protected behind barbed wire."

Under the British system, the queen reigns as a constitutional monarch with real political power vested in the elected House of Commons.